

**LANDHOLDERS'**

**JOURNAL**

EDITED BY J. K. CHOUDHURI, M.A.

VOL. III

:: JUNE, 1935 ::

No. IX

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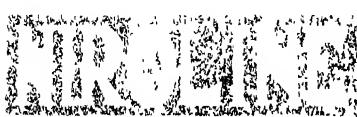
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1. *Leucosia* *leucostoma* (Fabricius) *leucostoma* (Fabricius)

1. *Chlorophytum comosum* L.

## **Salvador Grizei**

19. *Leucosia* *leucostoma* (Fabricius) (Fig. 19)

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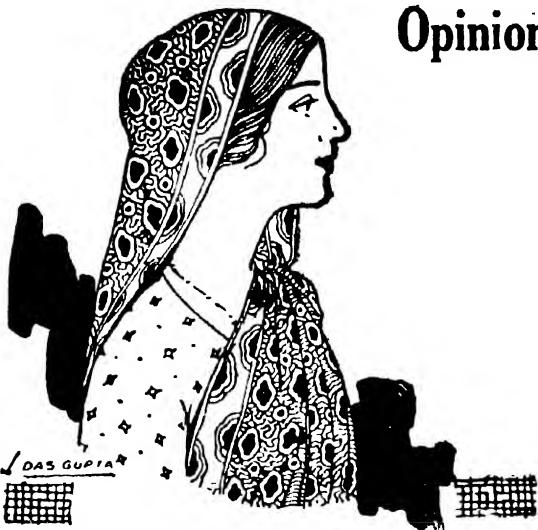
## **EDITOR'S NOTICE.**

*The "Landholders' Journal" is, as its title indicates, the accredited organ of the landholding community of India. It has come into existence to promote the interests—political, social and economic, of the landholding classes, and must necessarily depend for its success on the active co-operation and assistance of the community which it serves.*

*The policy of the Journal is progressive and dictated by one ideal—progress of the country as a whole along constitutional lines and without impairment of the basic rights of the zemindar community closely allied as they are with those of their tenants.*

*The Editor cordially invites articles and contributions on problems of interest to the country in general and to the landholding community in particular, items of personal and district news, reports of political and social events, autobiographical and biographical sketches with photographs of prominent members of the landholding community and photographs of general topical interest.*

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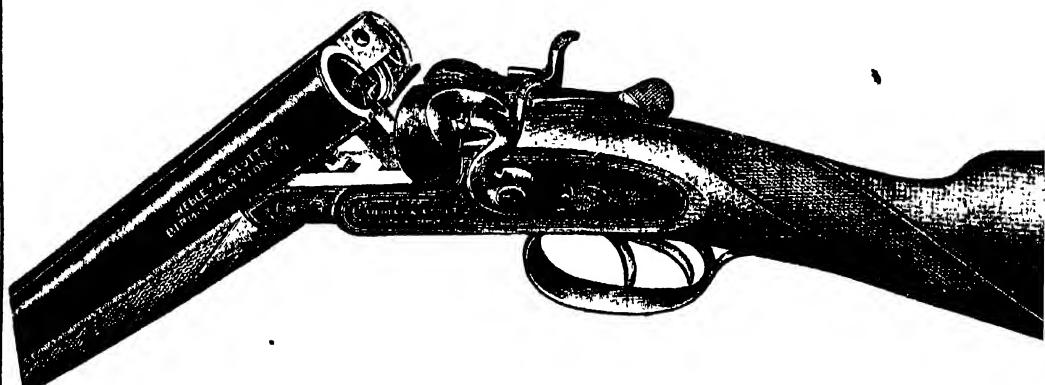
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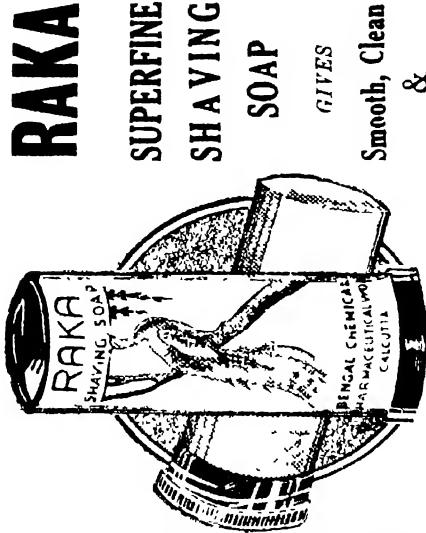
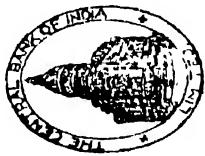
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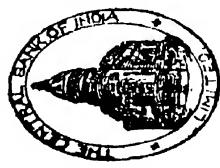
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Vol. III.

JUNE, 1935.

No. IX.

## Co-operative Dharma Golas

**N**O enterprise has ever been successful without tenacity and determination on the part of its projectors. Unfortunately these great virtues so essential for the attainment of success in every kind of undertaking have not met with their due recognition in India. Hence most of the schemes connected with our national and individual life have come to nothing. Our projects—including even some of the projects of our Government—are often the immediate result of sudden feelings, and continue to hold the field so long as the intensity of such feelings lasts.

This is not due so much to any inherent defect in our character as to our habit of taking things lightly and unwillingness to make sustained efforts. Schemes and programmes are drawn up as readily as they are brushed aside after a time.

We have been hearing for sometime of very many projects of rural uplift. Not a day passes without a new scheme of uplift being put forward by some one or other.

In a statement to the Press Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh of the All-India Village Industries Association stated that the object of the Association is the *all-round* welfare of the villages of India. Every province has a Board of management and a member in charge whose functions are of a general nature. It is the agents in charge of one or several villages who, subject to the approval of the Board, draw up the details for the particular village or groups of villages and are practically autonomous.

So far as Bengal is concerned the immediate programme adopted by the Board for improving the health of the villagers and effecting economy in food-stuffs refers primarily to finding out whether unpolished rice is better than the husked rice that is ordinarily available in the village bazar.

If only huskless unpolished rice is proved to be better scientifically, it will mean a saving of Rs 3 crores annually for Bengal.

Experiments are also being carried out to ascertain the feasibility of making *Gur* from thousands of palm trees in Bankura, Birbhum and Burdwan which are not utilized for this purpose at present.

The question of inducing cultivators to turn their jute into finished products, such as gunny bags, *satranchis*, etc., and that of finding a market for such goods and developing hand-paper industry are also in the programme.

Another important question to which attention is being paid is that of restoration of the village tanning and shoe-making industries. If village *muchsis* whose condition is anything but satisfactory could take to making shoes for villagers, it would mean bread to those semi-starving people.

The programme has immense potentialities for good. But everyone who has any knowledge of Indian villages must be aware of the extreme poverty of the vast millions of villagers. Two meals a day for every member of a family—all the year round—is something which is beyond the conception of a considerable portion of our people. One meal, half a meal, and even starvation for days—are what characterize living in India's countryside even in so-called normal years.

Of all human requirements none is so pressing, so all-absorbing as the requirements of the belly. Hunger brooks no delay. No programme of rural uplift can be complete with the question of immediate food supply to the hungry and starving millions left out. All talks of constitutional advance, social reform etc., are meaningless when the very men for whom reform is sought are starving.

The problem of problems before the country therefore is to find out ways and means for the minimum food supply to the people.

The question arises, how can this be done? We suggest a simple method—co-operative in principle with none of its financial obligations or risks and simple in operation—whose application will go a long way to lessen the hardships caused by poverty.

State doles, poor houses and charity homes obtain in many countries. But they can never stop sufferings of privations. On the contrary they encourage pauperism. People must be taught to exert their best to maintain themselves and must be made familiar with the utility of co-operative saving. In each village or group of villages there should be what may be called a *Dharma Gola* (grain store) located in a well-protected house of a trusted leader, in which each and every cultivator may be induced to make a voluntary deposit of a quantity of principal foodcrops such as rice, wheat, etc. In times of scarcity needy depositors may take loan from the *Gola* to be returnable to it at next harvest with an addition of 25 per cent of the quantities borrowed.

Suitable rules for deposit, withdrawals, management and up-keep of the *Gola*, keeping of accounts, etc., may be framed and administered by a committee of members selected from among the depositors. One advantage the borrowings from a *Dharma Gola* will have over ordinary money borrowings is that both receipt and payment will be in kind and the cultivator will be spared the risks of appreciation or depreciation of the money value of the produce. Another advantage is that the time for repayment will be most favourable for the debtor, namely, harvest time. The more such *Golas* are formed the better for the country. The advantages of the scheme including the simplicity of its operations will, we doubt not, create a network of such *Golas* and the money value of the deposits in them will soon reach a colossal figure provided always they are conducted on businesslike methods and honesty.

The case of India's millions going without food seems a bit anomalous. India produces at present enough of staple food-stuffs, vegetables and fruits to satisfy the needs of her growing population and has a potential capacity of producing many times its present yield under improved conditions. So the question of inadequacy of food supply cannot arise. One of the main causes which prevent growers from keeping sufficient stock of food grains to cover their yearly consumption is the hen which *Banias* and *Mahajans* have on all their standing crops because of money or grains advanced by them for the maintenance of the cultivators and their ancestors, purchase of seeds, bullocks and for meeting other sundry expenses. The result is that most of the crops go to satisfy *Mahajans'* never-ending debts and very little is left to the cultivator of the produce of his hard labour. The cultivator has therefore either to starve or to go to his *Mahajans* again to borrow money on the credit of his future crops. And this process goes on until the cultivator finds that even after parting with the produce of his field—on which alone he might live—year after year in repayment of his debts, his liabilities have not decreased but on the contrary considerably increased. Is there any wonder that under such circumstances destitution and despair should perpetually mark him as their own?

If this is the position of the actual tiller of the soil, the condition of those who are just a stage above them—namely, the middle class tenure-holders of various denominations who depend mostly on small incomes derived from rents of lands held under them by actual cultivators,—is much more miserable. For the cultivators being producers cannot be wholly denied from sharing a portion of the crops,—however small this portion may be—even by the greediest *mahajans*. But no such consideration is shown—and the instinct of self-preservation and the predicament in which the cultivators themselves generally find combine to produce a disinclination on their part to show such consideration—by cultivators to their immediately superior landlords. Under these circumstances it is the unfortunate middle class tenure-holders who suffer most.

The only remedy lies in saving the cultivator class from the grip of rapacious *money-lenders*—*banias* and *mahajans* and in restricting the wholesale export of crops from the place of their origin and in making suitable provision for ensuring fair distribution over all areas.

Sufficient stock must be kept in every agricultural unit—village or union or district—to meet the yearly demands of its people. Only the surplus to be found by calculation may be allowed to be exported to other regions where the yield is poor and falls short of the actual demands.

The success of the scheme would depend as much upon the initiative of selfless and public-spirited workers in villages as upon governmental help and co-operation.

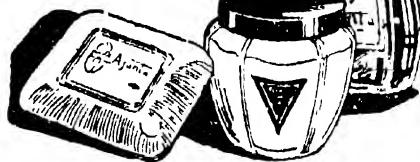
A district officer assisted by a staff of supervisors may be specially deputed for the purpose of ascertaining the yearly demands of the people of specific areas and the amount of the surplus that may be exported out of them. It may however be necessary to legislate restricting export in contravention of the above principle. It is here that Government intervention may be necessary.

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# Planning India's Trade

BY KHAGENDRA N. SEN, M.A., F.R.E.S. (Lond.)

THE Inter-imperial Trade Agreement concluded at Ottawa in 1932 is due to terminate shortly. With the termination of the Ottawa Agreement, the Indo-British Trade Pact will also lapse. The Trade Convention between Japan and India will expire on the 31st March, 1937. In other words, in another two years' time, the different trade treaties to which India is a party will cease to be in force. It is at present difficult to foresee what would be the state of the world's trade and world economic conditions a couple of years hence, but he would be an inveterate optimist who would suggest that the forces of economic nationalism would cease to function with the improvement of world conditions. It can, of course, be asserted that economic nationalism derives its main inspiration from the depressed condition of the world's trade. It owes its genesis to the fact that each country tries to retain as much as possible a share of the dwindling quantum of trade, and to prevent foreign countries from cutting into the domestic production as far as possible. The logical absurdity of this position is relieved by trade treaties which have recently provided all countries with a bargaining power with a way out of the present economic impasse. But when once the full implications of this method of carrying on the world's trade through a system of trade treaties are realised, it will be difficult for the Government, or even the mercantile interests, of a country to abjure such an important weapon, the weapon of using its bargaining power, for the advancement of its own economic interests or strength. The case for trade treaties seems thus to be not an incident of the present only but one which is likely to determine the economic policy of every country in the near future. The earlier the start in the planning of trade, the stronger, therefore, will be the future economic position of the country or countries concerned. If India does not bestir herself in time, she will be left behind in the race for economic consolidation—that is what is aimed at at present—and will soon find herself at a disadvantage in gathering sufficient strength to face the competitive power of the countries that will have had an earlier start in the race.

In the matter of trade planning, India has, of course, certain unique advantages. The vast size of the country, her teeming millions, the potentialities of an increased purchasing power, the raw materials in which she abounds,—all these will always offer a temptation to the manufacturing and commercial interests of other countries to enter into trading relations with

India, which any far-seeing Government can exploit to the fullest extent and secure an advantageous position for our own exporters in the resulting bargains. India has another point of advantage in the fact that she has a home market for local producers and manufacturers which, if properly developed, would reduce our dependence on foreign markets to the minimum. I say "to the minimum", because, there is a factor in the situation for which it would be necessary for us to maintain a surplus balance, of a certain size, of exports over imports. The size of this balance is determined by what are called the "Home Charges" which are charges payable in England for meeting certain obligations to which India has committed herself. The Home Charges include leave allowances and pensions of officers who have served (or serve) India resident abroad, remittances by Indian officers to the United Kingdom (and elsewhere) for the education of their children etc., the cost of the office and establishment of the High Commissioner for India in London and of other offices located in London, the army and marine effective charges (such as the capitation charges), cost of stores purchased in England and abroad, the service of foreign loans and the like. In all, our foreign obligations involve a remittance of from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 crores every year to London which is the principal paying-out centre for India. This sum India will have to raise by creating a trade balance of equal amount, and to this end, if not for any other, India will have to interest herself in the state of her foreign trade. We can go even further and point out that so long as the necessity of remitting annually this huge amount of money to London will remain, the Government of India, sooner or later, will have to take deliberate steps to conserve our export markets, and if possible to improve upon them, for otherwise they would find India being gradually ousted from her existing markets by her more enterprising and business-like rivals. That this is not a remote contingency I shall presently show. Suffice it to say here that if the Government of India do not take up the matter of planning her foreign trade at their earliest convenience and opportunity, they will soon have to pay a heavy price for their attitude of negligence. The termination of the various Trade agreements to which I have just referred and the impending negotiations with Canada, Irish Free State, Italy, Afghanistan and other countries provide just that opportunity, and if I may add, that impetus which we had so far been lacking for planning a new deal in respect of India's foreign trade. The object of this planning will be to provide India with assured and stable markets abroad, which will yield a sufficient balance on the credit side so as to enable her to meet her foreign obligations and which will leave Indian industry free from the uncertainties and disturbances following upon a tariff-war and questionable devices to capture trade, such as exchange dumping.

So far it had been customary for India to enjoy a fairly comfortable balance of trade which made it easy for the Government of India to arrange their remittance programme without putting any strain on the

exchanges. During the last few years, however, the position has not been so easy as will appear from the following table :

Table I  
Balance of Trade in Merchandise  
(Figures in crores)

Pre-War Average	Rs. 78 27
War Average	" 76 31
1929-30	" 78 98
1930-31	" 62 05
1931-32	" 34 83
1932-33	" 3 36
1933-34	" 34 76
1934-35	" 25 56

It will be seen that since 1931-32, the balance of trade in merchandise has been unable to produce enough surplus to meet the Home Charges. Or rather, we should say that India would have been unable to meet her need for remittances to the fullest extent and maintain the rate of exchange if it were not for the huge quantities of gold that India has been exporting since that year. During the last three years India has exported gold to the total value of Rs. 175 11 crores, a fact which has not only enabled her to meet the Home Charges but has served, in addition, to strengthen her sterling balances considerably. The gold exports are, however, an entirely fortuitous aid to the Government of India for meeting the present critical situation and it is obvious that it would be risky to bank on the continuance of the exports for any length of time for playing the part of a trade balance *vis-a-vis* the Home Charges. It is to be remembered in this connection that India has very little in the way of "invisible" exports such as banking and shipping profits, foreign investments etc., which might help her to meet her position as a debtor country without an overmuch dependence on a "visible" balance of trade, that is, a trade balance in merchandise. Unfortunately there is little indication that in the future, so far as we can foresee, there would be development of banking and of the shipping industry or the growth of investments to an extent that would make it unnecessary for India to maintain a large balance in our foreign trade in merchandise. Willy-nilly, we will have to secure an excess of exports over imports of merchandise to the value of from Rs. 50 to 75 crores. The actual position of our trade balance as disclosed in the table given above shows that it will be no easy task to secure that balance, if the present state of affairs continues.

An excess of exports over imports may be secured in either of two ways, either by encouraging exports, or by checking imports. In this context, we may refer to the popular fallacy that to check imports would be to check exports also, or that we cannot encourage exports without taking more of imports. That is to say, we cannot sell more unless we

buy more or buy less unless we sell less. This fallacy is due to an illogical jumbling up of two well-known economic principles, namely, that imports are paid for by exports and that ultimately exports and imports must balance. The real interpretation of these two principles is this. When it is said that exports and imports must finally balance, what is meant is that all the debits in the national accounts must balance all the credits, and not simply exports and imports. The Balance of Accounts includes the visible as well as the invisible exports and the visible as well as the invisible imports, and includes the export and import of treasure. This is something quite different from the Balance of Trade in merchandise only. It is quite conceivable, in fact, it is the rule, that there should be a discrepancy between the exports and imports of merchandise. In such cases the balance is made up of "invisible" items either on the debit or on the credit side as the case may be, and by movement of treasure if there is still an adverse balance to be met. Now, in the case of India, we have not only to pay for our imports in merchandise but also for services and other obligations known compendiously as the Home Charges. Since, however, we have little by way of invisible exports as an offset against the Home Charges, our exports in merchandise must suffice to balance the accounts ; which means that we must every year have an excess of exports over imports in merchandise to the extent at any rate of the value of our Home Charges. As a matter of fact, we want something more. For we require to build up a strong gold reserve (as the Hilton Young Commission suggested, for financing a scheme of gold standard for India) and to buy back securities held abroad.

Further, it must be made clear that when we say that the total debits and credits must balance, we do not mean that the debits and credits—far less exports and imports in merchandise alone—between any one country and India must balance. Thus it is a perfectly compatible position that we would buy more from Great Britain than sell to her and sell more to France than buy from her. In other words, it is not necessary that we should have to buy more from a particular country than sell to her : trade is hardly self-contained between two countries. What is necessary—it amounts to a truism—is that the exports of a country to all the other countries taken together with which it has a trading connection should balance the imports which that country is obtaining from all the countries, which are supplying it, taken together, the exports and the imports including visible as well invisible items. Naturally, even in the case of trade treaties, a position of perfect equilibrium of the trade between the parties concerned is not usually sought, because a fine adjustment of surplus and requirements can seldom be attained in practice between only two partners.

To revert to the methods by which a trade balance can be secured namely, by the encouragement of exports or by checking imports. Measures usually adopted for the encouragement of exports may be various, e.g. State subsidies, improvement of trade embassies, improvement of

the quality of products, improvement of grading of the goods exported and of the marketing organization generally, propaganda and publicity—and in the last resort, by exchange manipulation. The chief instrument for checking imports is the tariff ; the system of exchange quotas recently adopted by some European countries (e. g. Germany) has also the same effect. Deflation of currency by bringing about a state of low prices also checks imports and stimulates exports, but it is a dangerous device in other respects and is at best a temporary palliative. So also are tariffs a dangerous instrument of national economic policy. They create vested interests, and if sufficiently high, invite rival firms to set up business in the country imposing the tariffs and operate from behind the tariff wall. Moreover, the mechanism of a system of tariffs and its effects on the social and economic well-being of a country are of a complex kind. The most serious objection, however, against tariffs is that they provoke retaliation in the countries that are adversely affected by the tariffs. So far as India is concerned, a policy of encouraging exports or of checking imports has its well-known limitations. The foreign trade of India is largely in the hands of non-Indian firms and agents operating in India or abroad. It is only recently that the policy of establishing trade embassies in the different commercial centres of the world is being adopted as part of State policy. Besides the High Commissioner in London, a Trade Commissioner is stationed at Hamburg and another has been posted in Italy, all these being Indians. But the lack of banking facilities and of credit operate as serious handicaps in the way of Indian exporters. So far as tariffs are concerned, the position is no less difficult. India has accepted tariffs as an instrument of protection but not as an instrument of deliberately shutting out imports. The underlying principle of the scheme of discriminating protection adopted by India is to bring about a state of fair competition between the indigenous product and its foreign rival, not to eliminate the foreign rival altogether. In some cases, no doubt, there has been a serious diminution of imports, as for instance, in the case of sugar. But this is due to the accidental over-protection of the industry. Of course, in the prevailing state of swadeshi sentiment, a protective tariff is bound to result in a considerable reduction of imports ; but it is significant that we are still importing large quantities of cotton goods and iron and steel which are protected industries. In one case at least, a protective tariff has stimulated imports of the non-protected variety namely, in the case of machinery and mill-work. This is, of course, a concomitant of the industrialization of India. In short, the point is that the usual measures so far adopted for securing a trade balance are unsatisfactory, being one-sided in their incidence and uncertain and cumbrous in their operation.

A Trade Agreement or Convention, however, solves many of these uncertainties and other difficulties. It is the product of mutual goodwill and is based on mutual consent. Since in every country, there are more or less reliable statistics of foreign trade and since for customs purposes, the

flow of the trade is already under effective oversight, it lends itself easily to State regulation and is simple and definite in its operation. The most difficult part is the bargain itself, because each country tries to secure the most advantageous terms of trade with due regard to its own economic position. India, as we have seen, is, from many points of view, in a position of advantage. Almost all countries which have a surplus of goods to dispose of will be anxious to cultivate her goodwill ; and if the negotiations are carried on with due circumspection, there is no reason why the problem of securing an adequate balance of trade should not be solved for some time to come. The two chief favouring factors in these deals will be that the world is in need of India's raw materials and that India is in need of many of the imports for which she cannot at present offer any effective substitute. This position will, of course, change with the industrialization of India for that would mean that India will utilize most of the raw materials at present exported. But the complete industrialization of India will yet take some time to come ; and in the meantime, a higher standard of living of the Indian people will continue to offer opportunities to importers to take advantage of the Indian market. And, in any event, if due to the industrialization of India, she exports less of raw materials to other countries, she will also need to import less for the same reason. The position, if carefully foreseen and planned, need not affect the net trade balance which it is the purpose of the plan to secure, particularly as the size of our foreign obligations is also due to shrink in time, for many of the important items now constituting the Home Charges will disappear in the future with the progress of Indianization and the development of the local capital market.

We have argued so far so as to suggest as though the need for meeting the cost of the Home obligations is the only desideratum for maintaining a surplus trade balance of a certain size. This is true so far as it represents a pressing necessity, and so far as it is the most important single consideration affecting the problem of our foreign trade. Looked at, however, from the general point of view, we find that a certain amount of trade between countries is inevitable. No doubt, the forces of economic nationalism operate towards making every country as nearly self-sufficient as possible, particularly in regard to key industries and articles of vital necessity, the supply of which may be cut off during a war. But even allowing for a wide sweep for the play of these forces, nobody, we daresay, will advocate the growing of grapes in Scotland or jute in Sahara. And so if people are to eat grapes, and if things are to be packed in jute, these must be bought in exchange of commodities which the growers of grape or jute respectively might stand in need of ; or money will flow from one country to another. But the difficulty is that there are a large number of commodities which are widely used and which can be produced or manufactured in several competing countries. So, if India has a surplus of cotton to buy her requirements with, so have other countries. Here comes the necessity of striking a mutually advantageous bargain by which India

will be able to assure for herself a share of the cotton market of the world, agreeing to take in return goods which she either does not produce herself or in the production of which she is in a comparatively less advantageous position. A dwindling quantum (and value) of trade together with keen competition among rival producing countries has made it inescapable for every country desiring to sell her goods abroad—whether for securing a trade balance or for maintaining the country's purchasing power and standard of living—to come to a sort of understanding between itself and its customers on a reciprocal basis. In other words, trade treaties will be an inevitable feature of the new economic understanding. India's need for trade treaties is not the least urgent among all the countries of the world. It is, indeed, imposed on her by the fact that she must have a considerable trade balance to her credit; but that is not the only consideration. India has surplus of production over consumption in many directions, e. g. jute, cotton, oil seeds etc. These she must export and thereby put additional purchasing power in the hands of the community which will serve to raise the standard of living in the country. In sugar also, she is likely to have soon an exportable surplus. This she must be able to dispose of, that is, sell to other countries. In short, trade planning is a necessary incident of the present situation and cannot be put off any longer without serious detriment to the interest of this country. Its purpose will be not only to maintain our existing market and recover our lost ones, but also to discover new outlets for our goods.

That there is real urgency in the matter will be borne out by the table which we have already cited of India's dwindling balance of trade in merchandise. From a value of Rs. 78,98 lakhs in 1929-30, it fell to a value of Rs. 25,56 lakhs in 1934-35. The whole of this fall is not accounted for by the fall in prices alone. There is clear evidence that the different countries of the world are taking less of India's goods than they used to formerly. The following table of our trade in merchandise with the different countries of the world with whom we have important trade connections will not only justify this conclusion and point to the seriousness of the same but also furnish evidence of the Government's apathy in the matter. The figures are in lakhs of rupees, the positive sign denoting a favourable balance of trade and the negative sign an adverse balance :—

Table II  
UNITED KINGDOM

	Imports	Exports	Balance
Pre-War Average	91,58	56,30	- 35,28
War Average	83,56	69,62	- 13,94
Post-War Average	1,46,43	73,04	- 73,39
1932-33	48,80	37,94	- 10,86
1933-34	47,63	48,20	+ 57

## U. S. A.

	Imports	Exports	Balance
Pre-War Average	4,49	16,90	+ 12,41
War-Average	10,29	26,75	+ 16,46
Post-War Average	21,64	36,26	+ 14,62
1932-33	11-25	9,99	- 1,26
1933-34	7,18	14,38	+ 7,20

## JAPAN

Pre-War Average	3,64	16,86	+ 13,22
War-Average	15,41	25,20	+ 9,79
Post-War Average	17,48	40,31	+ 22,83
1932-33	20,48	14,06	- 6,43
1933-34	16-36	12,78	- 3,58

## GERMANY

Pre-War Average	9,35	22,36	+ 13,01
War-Average	1,04	2,04	+ 1,00
Post-War Average	7,16	14,86	+ 7,70
1932-33	10,39	8,66	- 1,73
1933-34	8,88	9,82	+ 94

## FRANCE

Pre-War Average	2,21	14,82	+ 12,61
War-Average	1,85	10,02	+ 8,17
Post-War Average	2,37	14,37	+ 12,00
1932-33	2,04	8,12	+ 6,08
1933-34	1,51	7,43	+ 5,92

## ITALY

Pre-War Average	1,45	7,08	+ 5,63
War-Average	1,73	8,77	+ 7,04
Post-War Average	2,47	9,63	+ 7,16
1932-33	3,95	4,73	+ 78
1933-34	2,91	5,82	+ 2,91

## CHINA

Pre-War Average	1,58	8,74	+ 7,16
War-Average	1,93	4,56	+ 2,63
Post-War Average	3,14	10,98	+ 7,84
1932-33	2,95	3,58	+ 63
1933-34	2,23	4,46	+ 2,23

## RUSSIA

Pre-War Average	22	1,94	+ 1,72
War-Average	10	2,74	+ 2,64
Post-War Average	12	...	- 12
1932-33	36	34	- 2
1933-34	1,64	8	- 1,58

## AUSTRIA

	Imports	Exports	Balance
Pre-War Average	3,19	7,77	+ 4,58
War-Average	27	94	+ 67
Post-War Average	42	73	+ 31
1932-33	65	...	- 65
1933-34	52	...	- 52

## BELGIUM

Pre-War Average	2,76	11.97	+ 9,21
War-Average	38	1,10	+ 72
Post-War Average	4,64	11.25	+ 6,61
1932-33	3,42	4,04	+ 62
1933-34	2,66	4,50	+ 1,84

The conclusions which may be drawn from these figures are clear. One conclusion is that the favourable balance of trade that we enjoyed with some countries has since been turned into an adverse balance or into such a severely reduced surplus as is incapable of being explained on the ground of the trade depression alone. Another conclusion is that the rate of diminution of our exports has been more pronounced than that of imports. Since we are considering the value of our trade in these figures, it might be argued that the greater drop in the figures of our exports is due to the fact that the fall in the price of primary products (which constitute the bulk of our exports) has been greater than the fall in the prices of manufactured goods (which constitute the bulk of our imports). Here again, the actual figures cannot be explained on the score of this argument alone, namely, that agricultural prices have fallen more than the prices of manufactures. Thus while the price level of our exported articles fell in March, 1934 by 49 p. c. compared with December, 1931 (Indian Index Number Series, 1873), the total value of our exports diminished from Rs. 220 crores in 1930-31 to Rs. 146 crores in 1933-34, a drop of about 30 per cent. Further, as regards imports, the price level of imported articles fell in March, 1934 by 131 p. c. compared to December, 1931, so that the percentage fall has been actually higher than that in the exported articles. There could, therefore, be not the least doubt that the loss of our export markets is due to the fact that we are losing ground to other countries. The purchase of cotton by Japan, of hides and skins by Germany, the development of German rayon industry, the economic consolidation of her colonies by France which is already affecting the trade in oilseeds, cotton, hides and skins, rice, tea and manganese—these are so many instances of how India is losing or stands to lose valuable custom which she has hitherto enjoyed. It will be a suicidal policy in these circumstances to rest on one's oars.

What we want to suggest is that our Department of Commercial Intelligence and the Economic Sub-Committee of the Viceroy's Cabinet ought at once to get busy. If they are generally sceptical of the wisdom

of economists who are rash enough to recommend planning to the Government of India and thus seek to divest them of a responsibility that belongs entirely to them, here in the matter of trade planning at any rate, there is a duty which the Government of India will only shirk at their peril. The stability of the Indian financial system is involved in the question. And while they consider the question of trade planning, we must emphasise two considerations. The first is that the position of the United Kingdom need not be unnecessarily exaggerated. Her purchase of cotton from India, it must be emphasised, is capable of bearing more than one interpretation. On the other hand, it is necessary that we should pay more attention to European countries other than the United Kingdom. It should be regarded as a matter of concern that our balance of trade with European countries other than the United Kingdom has been reduced from a total surplus of Rs. 55 crores in 1913-14 to Rs. 10 crores in 1933-34. The United Kingdom can hardly retrieve this loss for, excepting in the year 1933-34 she has consistently sold more to us than bought from us, that is to say, the balance of trade between India and the United Kingdom has been adverse to India throughout, excepting in 1933-34 when there was a small favourable balance. The second consideration that we want to emphasise is that with the separation of Burma, many of our exports will further be reduced, while imports (from Burma) will swell our import figures. This aspect of the question should not, therefore, be lost sight of in preparing a comprehensive plan of stabilising and regulating our trade connections. The work will be so exacting and watchful that there ought to be a full-fledged Bureau of Foreign Trade working under the Economic Council entrusted with it. It goes without saying that trading interests of the country ought to have an important say in the constitution of the Bureau.

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# The India Bill

BY SACHIN CHOUDHURI, B. A.

**T**HE sincere determination of British politicians to redeem England's pledges to India is unmistakably reflected in the passage of the India Bill through the third reading in the House of Commons. The rapidity with which complicated and controversial clauses were disposed of and the overwhelming defeats sustained by the opposition on almost all amendments, should leave no doubt about the bonafide of the British statesmen to assist India to attain her rightful place as a self-governing unit within the Empire.

The trend of discussions on the Bill in the House of Lords and the progress it has so far made in that House clearly indicate that the India Bill will be on the Statute Book much sooner than was originally expected. With the commencement of the new constitution India will enter upon a new era in her history. The place of the existing system of unitary government will be taken up by a new system viz., federal government. The constituent units of the Federation will be the Indian States and the Provinces in British India.

Incongruous parts do not always fit properly, and there is an influential body of public opinion which is definitely pessimistic about the future of the constitution. It is premature to belittle the doubts of the critics about the smooth and harmonious working of the Federation with units divergent in ideas and outlook and in different stages of advancement, political, social, economic, educational, etc.

But situated as India is, the one and the only possible line of her development as a strong united nation lies in the direction of federation. And a federation founded on British Indian Provinces alone would result either in excluding the Indian States permanently from the federation and keeping them outside its pale for ever, or in encroachment by the federation upon the fundamental rights and privileges of the States ending in bitterness of feelings and constant friction. The proposed constitution being based upon agreed opinion of the federating units has no such risks, and possibilities of and occasions for estrangement would be few and far between.

The attitude the Indian States would take towards the coming Federation has already found expression in the speech made by the Dewan of one of the most advanced Indian States. Speaking before the Representative Assembly of Mysore Sir Mirza Ismail said :

The India Bill will rank as one of the greatest achievements of the British Parliament. Seldom has any measure passed by Parliament evoked such bitter and powerful opposition, or been attacked from so many different quarters and for so

many different reasons. I myself have been a serious critic of the Bill in regard to some of its fundamental proposals. But if it were a question between acceptance or rejection, or even postponement, I should have no hesitation in deciding on acceptance.

In this work-a-day world we have to take a realistic view of life and its problems ; we have to act as practical men, not as visionaries. We cannot insist upon the acceptance of our own point of view and ignore the views of others. We have to take into account the real factors of the situation—personalities, vested interests, economic conditions, communal misunderstandings—and all the other lions in the path. Conviction has been borne in upon me as the days pass on and the interminable discussions and controversies proceed, that, in the existing circumstances both in India and England, it would have been quite impossible for any other measure to go through the legislative process. Unsatisfactory as the Bill is from many points of view, complicated as the proposed Constitution is, and difficult as it will be in its working, I am, nevertheless, in favour of accepting and working it, for I am convinced that such defects and deficiencies as are found in it are for the most part inevitable in a constitution designed for a country so full of paradoxes and anomalies as India.

Nor need we regard this Constitution, any more than any other human institution, as something final, unremittable and immutable. If actual experience should demonstrate the futility of some provisions and the danger of others, there is no reason to think that the Constitution will not undergo necessary alterations, if not at once in the letter, at any rate in practice and by the growth of conventions. Events will shape their course according to the realities of the situation, and things do not usually happen exactly as wished for or as predicted. I have no doubt that the Constitution will be worked, nor do I doubt that we shall find that it will give Indians a great opportunity of serving their motherland and of enabling her to take that position in the comity of nations which her vast size and population, and her ancient culture and civilization entitle her to take.

India's progress to that high status among the civilized nations of the world is assured, if only we Indians exhibit those qualities—patriotism, honesty of purpose and the spirit of conciliation, which alone can uplift a people. If we are found lacking in those qualities, and if jealousy and disunity should continue to mar our national life, we cannot blame others for our own failure, for no people can hope to elevate themselves permanently by the efforts of others.

If the above view is shared by other States there would be absolutely no ground for misgivings about the harmonious working of the new constitution. The above represents also the view of many Indians who, although sceptical about many proposals and definitely against others in the Bill as being prejudicial to the best interest of India, still consider the Bill to be a piece of legislation which gives enough of scope and opportunity to Indians to work for the attainment of India's economic and political salvation.

For the success of the reformed constitution two things are necessary : on the one hand, there must be a willing recognition of India's legitimate political aspirations by British politicians at home and British mercantile community in India and a definite repudiation of superiority complex entertained by many of them, and the aloofness of English residents in India must be replaced by active participation in all matters calculated to lead to the all-round progress of the country ; and on the other, the Indians must have their outlook widened and, instead of quarrelling amongst themselves over petty material gains, should work for the higher interest of India and, instead of preaching boycott and commercial discrimination against Englishmen, enlist their sympathy and co-operation in the great work of India's regeneration.

# The Problem of Rural Education

BY UMAPADA DUTT, M. A., B. T.

**E**DUCATION and its curricula are now exercising the brains of many eminent and gifted sons of the country for its importance from the national and cosmopolitan point of view. But to make it national or cosmopolitan, it is necessary in the first place to make it local ; for without a local tone or colouring it cannot be vital or organic. Diversity should be the first step towards unity which is, however, often confounded with the dead level of uniformity to which the education of our country has been reduced. Education may be raised to *oneness* even as the human nature is *one* : one, in the midst of a multitudinous variety essential to life. Artificial unity stifles individual or local developments, and turns out of Universities only the stamped and labelled products of manufactories, chiselled and smoothed, to safeguard against spurious imitation and forgery.

Academic education as provided for in colleges, in secondary schools, and even in primary ones, is rendered rigidly uniform, even to the extent of lifelessness—thanks to the machine-made curriculum of the University and the Education Department. It leaves nothing to the personal genius or initiative of the teacher, or to the local needs—social, industrial or agricultural. Naturally therefore, it is insipid, lifeless, jejune. Moreover it is of the urban type, dissociated from village-life—tainted with a narrow cockneyism, and never catering for diversity of life or occupations. It leaves out of account the seventy per cent of the people that eke out their humble existence in villages as artisans, craftsmen, agriculturists or industrialists, forming the bulk of the population and, economically considered, the muscles and sinews of the nation.

Education has been sought to be disseminated by the multiplication of High Schools and Middle English Schools ; and this endeavour has served to popularise academic and literary culture and also to broaden the outlook of the people to some extent. But on the other hand, it has brought in its train flagrant defects such as tastes and tendencies in the boys unsuitable to and dissimilar from those prevailing in the local societies, creating in them a false and morbid sense of respectability, which is anti-modern in spirit, and which militates against the democratic ideal that is most in request in socio-political life, as well as the dignity of labour, the sole means of the economic salvation of the future world.

Secondly, these Secondary Schools with their prohibitive costs in fees, prices of books etc. and overburdened with their top-heavy annual budgets, are few in number, and though usurping the greater portion of the finance allotted to education, educate only an infinitesimal fraction of the population.

Thirdly, cut-off from daily life and rearing up plants in the hot-house of the school-world, this education is unintelligible to the illiterate guardians who look upon it only as a probation for entry into the genteel and learned professions, but are ere long disillusioned when their sons and wards fail to realise their ambitions. Being therefore a misnomer, it is fast losing its hold upon the population who now pursue it mechanically as a fashion of the day, mostly without any ulterior objects in view. The most keenly felt want in this respect is that of any provision for adult education in villages, which would enable the guardians to appreciate the true and intrinsic value of education as consisting not in obtaining employment or emolument but in humanising and enriching the minds of men.

Fourthly, education is too much confined to the memorisation of text books for purposes of passing examinations and little or no attempt is made to connect it with the practical business of daily life. It is also circumscribed within the four walls of the class-room, where only lessons are given and taken, and no attempt is made to stimulate curiosity, observation or thoughtfulness, or an ardent ambition to improve upon the existing order of things.

Finally, no attempt is made to engage boys in self-activity for the management of their own affairs, or to bring home to them the dignity of manual labour.

Education in rural areas should, therefore, be ruralised. It should not be the exotic plant that it is, grafted from an alien soil, so as to render the people that derive intellectual nourishment from it, wholly unpractical, unsocial, undemocratic and hence undesirable members of the society to which they belong.

To rectify these defects the following measures are suggested for adoption in villages :—

(1) Improvement of the quality and standard of the Primary Education so as to bring it into line with ordinary problems of the daily life of the labouring classes who may have to go contented with that much of instruction for life. Waste of time and energy for those classes to learn the niceties of a foreign language, or unnecessary details of purely academic subjects causes delay in the beginning of their professional lives and should therefore be avoided. Secondary Education in nine cases out of ten creates within them ambitions to be genteel members of society or to lead soft and indolent lives—ambitions that are economically and sociologically prejudicial to the interest of the country and also, on their disillusionment, lead to despondency and even desperation.

(2) In Secondary Schools also, the pupils should be taught the dignity of labour, the value of disciplined organisation, the folly of the false sense of respectability arising from academic education, and the utility of the democratic point of view looking upon all men and women as men and women, irrespective of caste, creed and rank. Arrangement for various kinds of manual work, encouragement for self-reliance in doing the menial duties necessary for one's own comforts, and stimulation to social service for the benefit of the people of the village or of strangers during their residence in it—these are measures suggested to remedy the evils considered under this head.

(3) Removal of illiteracy from among the masses necessitates the founding of day schools for boys other than wage-earners, of night schools for those who are wage-earners during day-time, the education of girls along with boys in the primary stage, and the utilising of the services of itinerant female teachers within the inner apartments of illiterate families and thus the inclusion of the majority of the populace or the entire body of it, if possible, within the educational arrangements of a village.

(4) Education should have a local colouring, that is, an affiliation—intellectual, and practical, with the prevailing trend of local life. It should not rest contented with the teaching of general literature, general principles of science or other subjects of general information. The local industries, the local agriculture and the possibilities of organisation to develop and improve them or the drawbacks that hamper their growth—these are some of the matters that should form topics of discussion by teachers with their students. Places of historical interest should be visited by boys and researches on these should be undertaken by them. The education of adults should be carried on side by side with that of the boys to make them recognise and appreciate the true value of knowledge. The school-buildings or other local edifices, the *maidans* or other public places should be utilised for lectures with lantern slides where possible, for their enlightenment on practical and useful matters such as, the dissemination of progressive ideas relative to the utility of education in industrial and agricultural occupations, the economic value of cottage industries in national life and the employment thereby of idle hands and misspent hours, ideas about hygiene and sanitation, and about the clearing of jungles, tanks and rivers and other methods of rural reconstruction.

(5) Rural education should thus be interlinked with rural life. The lessons taught should be accompanied with their practical demonstration by Geographical tours or tours for Nature study and excursions to places of local industry and agriculture. Thus lessons from text-books and instructions in class-rooms should be made concrete, vivid, and life-like by observation and thinking, and by awakening in boys aspirations to ameliorate the existing state of things.

(6) Education should not merely consist in an accretion of information, but schools themselves should have plots of land and workshops on

a humble scale for creating a vocational bias in each and every student according to tastes and predilections. They should be taught to organise themselves for managing their own affairs by the constitution of food-commitees for messing arrangements, and of school Panchayets for adjudication of small offences among themselves, by the running of shops and factories for production of articles for sale, and of banks for depositing their little savings in order to cultivate habits of frugality. Even Mathematical problems should be solved in a real and not an imaginary situation, more at the call of necessity rather than for passing an examination. The educational experiments at Moga, Usagram, Ghaziabad and Sultanpur are moves in the right direction.

(7) For increasing the zest for the simplicity of rural life, folk-songs, folk-dances, folk talos, folk dramas and indigenous games which can be organised with little cost, should be organised. These may furnish the captivating pastimes of boyhood as well as of grown-up manhood in villages. Theatres, cinemas or other costly entertainments may altogether be dispensed with, for relieving the strain of toil and hardships.

(8) All this organisation of education should be entrusted to the school-teachers. What is specially necessary now-a-days for the amelioration of the condition of the whole nation is an arrangement for the proper training of teachers to shoulder these heavy national responsibilities. Training schools should be started in very large numbers and the pay, prospects, comfort and contentment of teachers should be attended to, and they should be given a respectable pay along with a responsible position. Rural education should be a subject of special training in their curriculum, and teachers should gather knowledge of all subjects that have a rural bearing, while also facilities should be given to them to procure all possible information regarding the local industrial, commercial, and agricultural concerns so as to enable them to enlighten their students. Teachers should then be the central protagonists in all educational matters of the locality and neighbourhood, and education itself should not be narrow in its scope but embrace all local affairs—social, agricultural, industrial and economic.

A scheme of education is thus roughly planned which, if executed by teachers specially trained for rural education, is hoped to turn the villages into smiling places of happiness, prosperity and contentment, and also ultimately to bring about the regeneration of the nation.

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# Rural Uplift

BY S. L. NARASIAH, B. A.

## LITIGATION

**T**HE three crushing evils that India today groans under are landlordism, usury, and litigation. Of these three litigation is to be more deplored ; for through it our men of light and learning are leading a vampire life falling on the fruits of honest labour of a famished peasantry, who in civilized countries are immune from every burden". While the best intellects of the civilized world are trying their level best to find work for the unemployed millions and increase national wealth, in this unfortunate land, however, the intellectual and the moneyed classes are busy in the spoliation of those who produce the prime necessities from the soil.

Heavy expense and inordinate delay are the crying evils of our legal system. Justice is a rare commodity, a luxury of life not within the reach of all. If a person wants, he would have it at a dear cost often extending to his worldly all. Litigation means money—money at every step from the moment the case is filed till it reaches finality, which often extends beyond the life time of the suitors. And the real woes of the litigant in British India" to quote the memorable words of their Lordships of the Judicial Committee, "begin when he gets a decree in his favour". The real difficulty is felt when it comes to executing and realizing the fruits of the decrees. As in the case of marriages, litigation has been the ruin of many a family. But the worst of it is that it brings in estrangement and discord even amongst the nearest and dearest relatives and friends, and leaves behind a trail of hate and bitterness that lasts till the end of days.

The remedy is to revive the old corporate life. The village Panchayat is to be reformed so as to suit the changed conditions of Indian life. The Panchayat, wherever it exists, is not feeling its power. It consists of a few persons, who have little intelligence and inadequate powers with a sweeping right of appeal against their acts and decisions on flimsy grounds. If it is meant to be a power and a force, the membership is to extend to a tolerably large number. Each party to an action is to have the right to select one or two in whom it has confidence. The pecuniary jurisdiction is to be enlarged. Procedure is to be simplified, and Case Law eliminated. The right of appeal is to be limited to cases of obvious oppression or

curruption or when the matter requires expert legal knowledge. In all other cases the Panchayat is to be final.

With the increase in its power and dignity, and with the assurance of judicial independence, the retired official and the rich landlord, who have cultivated a bias for town life, may be induced to return once again to villages. Panchayats may then function well and the plea that power leads to abuse would have no force at all.

The employment of circuiting judges from amongst the ranks of the practising pleaders to decide on important matters or complicated questions, commends itself both by the simplicity and the economy of the scheme, and fits in well with Indian conditions. The poor client, instead of going far at too great an expense and trouble, would get justice done at his own place without much delay, with little expense, and no loss of labour.

### SANITATION

For sound economic life good living is essential. Where conditions are insanitary and unwholesome there would be great economic waste of labour. When a locality is infested with malaria or visited by an epidemic, there would be woeful waste of man power, a loss to the individual employer and to the worker for the daily wage. The infected person suffers because he gets nothing during the period of illness and has to live upon his past earnings if he was any ; the employer because he has to pay at a higher rate when the number of workers falls off due to the disease or the epidemic. On account of sickness and death the loss which this country annually sustains is estimated at 210 crores of rupees. Of this, Rs. 10,700,000 is the loss incurred by disease amongst the labouring population which numbers about 1,600,000. Mr. Brausby Williams, the Chief Irrigation Officer of Bengal calculates that one death here is equivalent to 180 weeks of sickness in England. By proper precautions against sickness which is mostly preventible this enormous loss can to a great extent be minimized. Modern science has shown that epidemics and diseases are not the results of human sin or divine wrath, that man is no longer the helpless being he once considered himself to be and that by proper sanitation and good living he can bring disease well under control.

The remedy for this lies in the improvement of sanitary conditions. Sanitation has not yet received the consideration it deserves at the hands of the State and the local bodies concerned. Low-roofed, with few small windows or with none at all, shutting out light and air which are indispensable for healthy living, most of the houses in our villages are mere hovels not deserving the name of a house. Though a change to build better has come about, the general poverty of the people is an impediment, and people are unable to avail themselves of the facilities which the Co-operative Building Societies have offered.

The surroundings of the dwelling places are most filthy and unclean. Heaps of dust and rubbish are thrown into pits and pools near by to rot

and putrefy. The habit of easing one's self in close proximity to houses is common in most of the villages in Southern India. This often results in frequent visitation of epidemics which carry away hundreds of people. The pits and pools are the breeding centres for the mosquito during the rainy season. It is not also uncommon with most of the villagers to have their cattle, sheep and goats under their very roofs when rains pour in. These practices are very injurious from a health point of view. But for the hot sun and dry weather that prevent putrefaction and emanation of bad odour during the greater part of the year, the village dog and the pig that always do the scavenging work, it is heard to imagine how deplorable the state of things would be. But no villager ever thinks seriously of interfering with this state of things either because familiarity renders it commonplace or because he fears popular disapprobation. The State and the Local Boards are to extend help by furnishing trained men and money and the Committee of Sanitation is to do the rest in the interest of public health and sanitation.



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## His Excellency Lord Willingdon

By L. N. SARIN, B. A.

A brilliant personality, Lord Willingdon is one of the ablest Viceroys who have yet been sent to India. Resolute and firm, considerate and far-seeing, he is free from the double-dyed autocracy of Lord Curzon. If he has the urbanity of Lord Irwin, in the art of high statesmanship he excels Lord Reading. Accommodating like Lord Minto he outruns Lord Hardinge in his genuine regard for Indian sentiment and aspirations.

### Civil Disobedience

Conscious of the fact that "real progress demands conditions of tranquillity and peace" Lord Willingdon is an uncompromising enemy of all lawless activities. "Notwithstanding the many difficulties" he very pertinently remarked, "which we have had to surmount during the past few months and the serious problems that lie before us, with the recollection of all I owe to this country in my public service of years gone by, I feel it a great pride and privilege towards the end of my public life to be leading India on to her promised position as an absolutely equal partner with other Dominions under the Crown. Our difficulties must and shall be surmounted and my Government are determined to allow no subversive or revolutionary activities to prevent us from achieving this great purpose for which many of us have worked for long years."

### India's True Friend

Despite adverse comments Lord Willingdon had always been a true friend of India. Mr. Lloyd George in his War Memoirs bears ample testimony to this fact. After the Great War Lord Willingdon as the Governor of Bombay was the first responsible man who pressed the Prime Minister to liberalise the Indian constitution on democratic lines without any avoidable delay. Unless history is a record of lies Lord Willingdon stands for India's freedom on a Dominion model, but it should not be forgotten that the freedom he advocates is a freedom broadening from precedent to precedent. Constructive in design, creative in criticism, Lord Willingdon favours all sorts of constitutional agitations as the only vehicles expressive of national requirements. But activities subversive of Law and Order are foreign to his taste and chaos a thorn in his side. Like Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh, the great Indian patriot, he believes that idealism divorced from reality is like a good horse in the stable but a naughty mare on journey

and that while "visions which may be sublime but are not real and a universal boycott which would make administration impossible, seem to be the figment of a disordered imagination."

### Manliness of Character

There is a manliness of character about Lord Willingdon which is none too common in the politics of our own day. He is not the type of Viceroy who sees in politics nothing but "higher expediencies." Steadfast and accommodating he never truckles to the populace and seldom hesitates in telling people if need arises that they are in the wrong. An instinct for political casuistry is probably his best asset. If he cannot brook civil disobedience, he would be the last person to yield to the reactionary activities of the die-hards.

### His Viceroyalty

The view that he takes of his task as Viceroy is characterised throughout by a comprehensive thoroughness. No details escape his notice and he knows well the siling spots of the body politic. His energy and driving force are indeed commendable, and his viceroyalty despite its dark pages, has been great in the manner of its discharge, greater still in the measure of its fruitfulness and greatest of all in the high conception of duty by which it has invariably been inspired.

### Conclusions

Unless the facts are to be distorted to suit the political bias of the moment, the achievement of Lord Willingdon's Viceroyalty have been so far-reaching that they will not be gainsaid. Even in most hostile and unresponsive quarters will be the recognition of the difficult task that has been his and the doggedness with which he has faced it and the amazing part that he has played in making the new reforms a success by maintaining an atmosphere of peace and calm.

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# Vernacular : the Medium of Instruction and Examination

BY RADHA RAMAN MANNA.

INDIA is the only civilised country in the world where educational training is imparted to the students throughout their career in the schools and colleges through the medium of a foreign tongue. "Education to be expressive of native genius must be through the medium of the mother-tongue", observed Mrs. Sarojini Naidu addressing graduates of the Indian Women's University at a Convocation. Mahatma Gandhi had himself affirmed his faith in the gospel of the mother-tongue.

For some years past, discussions have been going on the question of the introduction of vernacular languages as the media of instruction and examinations in the primary and secondary schools throughout India instead of English as is usually the case now prevailing in this country of ours. Sometime in the year 1930, the Hesketh Committee on Primary and Secondary Education of Bombay recommended vernacular to be substituted upto the top classes in High Schools and to have examination in all subjects, other than English, through this medium. The Benares Hindu University has decided to make Hindi the vehicle of instruction in Sanskrit, History, Economics, Civics and Logic for the Intermediate Class from the next academic year. Only recently the Punjab University Senate resolved that from the year 1937 onwards, medium of instruction and examination in the Matriculation and School-Leaving Certificate Examinations in all subjects except in the subject of English may be in vernacular at the option of the candidate.

The proposal of incorporating vernacular as the medium of instruction and examination in the University of Calcutta, the premier University of the great Indian Empire, has long been hanging fire. But for the sudden death of the greatest patriot educationist of revered memory the late lamented Sir. Asutosh Mookerjee, Kt., one of the greatest Vice-Chancellors that the University had seen, who first keenly felt the evil effect of imparting education through the medium of a foreign tongue, this proposal would have long ago, been a *fait accompli*. It was Sir Asutosh who first placed Bengali in its rightful place by introducing it as one of the subjects in the Post-Graduate Class, and thereby raised his mother-tongue to such a dignified standard in the University curriculum of examination in that subject! However, interest in the proposal for

which credit is due to the retired Vice-Chancellor, Lt. Col. Dr. Sir Hasan Suhrawardy, Kt., M.D., and to the new Vice-Chancellor Mr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., Barrister-at-law, M.L.C., "the illustrious son of an illustrious father", who has been the very life and soul of the University ever since he joined it as one of its Fellows, has not abated.

The wise Senate of the Calcutta University should be sincerely congratulated on its having appointed, in December, 1931, a Special Committee with the then Vice-Chancellor at its head to examine the existing regulations for the Matriculation Examination and to make its own recommendations. The Committee have since unanimously made a recommendation to the effect that henceforth the vernacular language of the province should be the medium of instruction in all subjects except English in all the schools thereto affiliated. This is certainly a move in the right direction. Students will now feel greatly relieved in receiving their educational training in their own mother-tongue, which will undoubtedly very greatly facilitate their understanding. The proposal of introducing improved methods of teaching English in schools so that the standard of teaching English is not impaired by making vernacular the medium of instruction, is also commendable.

The Committee further recommended for the Matriculation seven compulsory subjects—Vernacular, English, Classical Language, Mathematics, History, Geography, Elementary Science and at least one and not more than two optional subjects out of a group of more than half a dozen subjects including Experimental Mechanics, Elementary Hygiene, Biology, Business Method and Correspondence, Commercial Geography, etc. Elementary Science is, for the present, included in the list of optional subjects with the proviso that it will be made compulsory after three years of the introduction of the new regulations.

The question of girls' education which has been assuming considerable importance and magnitude, also received the Committee's due consideration. Music, Fine Arts and Domestic Science, which are specially suitable for girls, have been prescribed by the Committee so far as optional subjects for girls are concerned in addition to the subjects which were open to all. Girl scholars are to qualify in voice and ear training and give a demonstration of Bengali or Hindusthani songs in different 'Tals', 'Rags' and 'Raginis'. Fine Arts will be divided into architecture, painting, and sculpture. In Domestic Science, girls are expected to be competent in such subjects as house location, ventilation, house decoration, sanitation, needle-work, laundry work, cookery and domestic economy and budget so that in their adult lives they can make a good, contented and beautiful home and contribute their quota towards all-round progress of their society and their mother country.

The proposed introduction of vocational training in the Matriculation curriculum, namely, Experimental Mechanics, Business Metheod and Correspondence and Commercial Geography, etc., and the conditions

imposed by the committee on schools for making arrangements for imparting training for a specified period in a number of "practical" subjects, will greatly benefit our boys as well as girls in schools, who bring their educational career to an end after passing the Matriculation.

The Committee further suggested that from the year when the proposed recommendations are likely to come into effect, every school with eight classes shall have at least three M. A. teachers, or B. A. with Honours, or B. A., B. TS. on its staff. A University register of teachers qualified to teach English in accordance with the new regulations will be maintained and every person appointed to teach English in a high school will be enrolled. Head Masters or Assistant Head Masters or Assistant Masters of ten years' standing will get certificates from the University on the recommendations of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal or Assam, and will be enrolled in the University register. Temporary certificates will also be granted by the Calcutta University on the fulfilment of certain conditions to persons qualified to teach English in schools. Others shall have to sit for an examination and shall have to pass to qualify themselves for such certificates and enrolment.

At a meeting of the Senate held on or about the 13th August, 1932, the Report of the Matriculation Regulations Committee was discussed and accepted with certain modifications one of which is to the effect that English History should form a part of the paper on History, and not, as suggested by the Committee, a part of the paper on English. The other modification is with regard to the recommendation of the Regulations Committee that every school must have at least three teachers specially qualified to teach English, according to what the Committee had laid down as being the specific qualifications required of such a teacher. The Senate has reduced the number of such specially qualified teachers from three to two and this change is quite justified in view of the economic stringency from which the schools in Bengal, and particularly those in the mofussil, are at present suffering.

Following the confirmation of the aforesaid Report, a representation was duly sent by the Senate on the 30th September, 1932, to the Ministry of Education, the Government of Bengal, for according sanction to the proposed Matriculation Regulations framed by the University, but the Government did not see its way to sanction them so long. This subject had been hanging on for a considerably long time and much controversy had been raised over the delay on the part of the Government in granting the sanction after the Senate approved of the scheme.

After unaccountably long silence, it is understood, the Government of Bengal in the Department of Education in reply to the authorities of the Calcutta University expressed general agreement with the principle underlying the scheme and intimated to them that a conference between the representatives of the University and the Government would soon be called to discuss the matter and the Government were prepared to

accept the University's suggestion that the application or modification of the Regulations, so far as girls were concerned, should be discussed at the same conference but it would probably be found convenient to take up the subjects that particularly affected the girls towards the end of the conference and that some ladies would, therefore, be invited to attend the first meeting when the exact procedure would be determined.

At last the long expected conference between the representatives of the University and those of the Government to discuss the draft Regulations submitted by the University for approval and detailed criticism by the Government came off on the 14th August, 1934, at the residence of the Minister of Education. On behalf of the University the following members were present :—The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. C. Mitter, Rai Bahadur Khagendra Nath Mitra, Dr. P. N. Banerjee, Mr. P. N. Banerjee, Mrs. Tatini Das, Mrs. P. K. Ray and Mrs. A. N. Choudhury.

The Director of Public Instruction, Assam, represented the Assam Government and several officials of the Education Department of the Government of Bengal were present to assist the Hon'ble Minister.

There was, it is understood, a prolonged discussion about the various regulations. The University point of view was explained by the Vice-Chancellor and the Government view-point by the Hon'ble Minister. This conference and the subsequent conference that met on 3rd September, 1934, came to an agreed conclusion with regard to the various questions under discussion, namely, the recognition by the Government of the Vernacular as medium of instruction for the Matriculation Examination, subject to certain conditions and alterations in the list of subjects. An agreement had also been reached regarding the training of teachers in English and arrangements would also be made for the training of teachers in scientific subjects. It is provided that Head Masters of all recognised schools who will have taught English upto 31st March, 1935, would be recognised as teachers of English. Assistant Head Masters and Assistant teachers who will have taught English in a recognised school or schools for at least five years prior to 31st March, 1935, would also be recognised as teachers in English. Three years after the Regulations have come into force no teachers of a recognised school shall be allowed to teach English in any of the classes unless he is qualified to do so under Section 9 (B) of the Regulations.

In order to pass the Matriculation Examination a candidate must obtain 36 per cent of the total marks in the aggregate of all the compulsory papers. Candidates who obtain 60 per cent of the marks in the aggregate shall be placed in the First Division and those who obtain 50 per cent in the Second Division.

The agreed recommendations of the conference held between the representatives of the Government and the University came up before the Senate of the Calcutta University on the 23 February, 1935, and were finally approved.

One of the steps already taken by the University in order to give effect to the new scheme is the preparation of good text books in the Vernacular, specially on scientific subjects.

In view of the final approval of the agreed conclusions by the Senate and in view of the steps already taken by the University in that direction it now seems quite possible that these new regulations will take effect in 1939. It will be a red letter day in the annals of the University when these regulations will come into force.

It is gratifying to note that the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dacca, has followed the good example of the Calcutta University and a special sub-committee of the said Board recently approved of the proposal of the Calcutta University that upto classes IX and X of High Schools, all subjects other than English should be taught through the medium of a vernacular, but special attention should be paid to more efficient teaching of English.

Encouraged by the success of the experimental measure adopted by the Department of Public instruction in Mysore in the matter of adopting Kannada as the medium of instruction in certain High Schools in the teaching of History, Geography and Mathematics, the Department feels that the time has now come to place the use of Kannada as a medium of instruction in all high schools on a definite basis, according to a United Press message from Bangalore dated November 1st, 1934.

Consequently instructions have been issued to all Government High Schools in Mysore to the effect that in all high schools which have more than one section in each form, English should be adopted as the medium of instruction in History, Geography and Elementary Mathematics in one section, while the other section will be allowed to pursue their studies in the above mentioned subjects in Kannada. This step will facilitate the speedy realisation of the scheme of the Education Department.

"I hope and trust that the University will not remain satisfied with merely recognising the Vernacular as the medium for the Matriculation Examination but will proceed to take the necessary steps with a view to make it the vehicle of instruction and examination for all, including the highest examinations of the University and thus give our national language its rightful place in the scheme of University studies", said Mr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee in the course his presidential speech delivered at the All-Bengal University and College Teachers' Conference.

"I must confess that before I came to Hyderabad I was one of those educationists who, while whole-heartedly agreeing in theory that instruction should be through the medium of the Indian languages, doubted whether in practice that was possible anywhere above the high school stage. My experience at the Osmania University has completely banished

my doubts. In order to satisfy myself in the matter, I have broken with traditions and have trespassed into class rooms, where I have listened lectures on a variety of subjects. I have satisfied from this personal investigation that all students of the Osmania University can read, write and speak Urdu with ease and correctness, and with much more fluency than students elsewhere can use English", thus addressed Dr. A. H. Mackenzie, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Osmania University at the annual convocation of the University where the vernacular medium above the high school stage has been immensely successful.

Dr. Mackenzie added that he had also found that students, whose mother tongue was not Urdu—even those who were studying in the science classes, in which Urdu phraseology might be expected to present some difficulty, were attaining a high standard of proficiency, as judged by their place in the University merit lists.

"My personal observations have convinced me", he continued, "that Osmania University students in general are much more responsive to the lectures, more mentally alive, and more interested in the work in hand than students in the class rooms in Northern India, where English is the medium of instructions."

He added that he has thus verified that free interaction between the minds of the teachers and the taught was possible only where the vehicle of thought was a language with which both were familiar.

"My greatest satisfaction", remarked the veteran educationist Mr. G. C. Bose, the Rector of the Bangabasi College, replying to the hearty felicitations offered by the students of his college in appreciation of his long service to the cause of education in Bengal in general, and to the College in particular, "at this old age of 91, is that my long cherished hope of vernacular being the medium of instruction and examination for the Matriculation is going to be realised now after a quarter of a century." Mr. Bose claimed to be one of those who first moved in the matter so early as in 1909. He expressed the hope that he would live to see vernacular being the medium of all the examinations of the Calcutta University.

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## Bengal Government and Jute Restriction

BY N. K. D.

The following *communiqué* was issued by the Bengal Government on the 25th June last.

In a Press Communiqué issued on the 20th September last, the Government of Bengal announced their scheme to restrict the cultivation of jute in 1935. This scheme aimed at securing a reduction of the area under jute by the organisation of intensive propaganda with a view to inducing the growers to restrict their sowings of jute this season.

Propaganda in favour of this scheme for voluntary restriction was carried on early this year in the most intensive manner, and though it is not yet possible to estimate what has been the precise extent of restriction there is little doubt from all accounts that the great majority of jute-growers have co-operated in the scheme and there are grounds for belief that the prescribed quota of restriction will be secured. The Government of Bengal acknowledge in this connection the services of those non-officials and officials throughout the province whose unstinted support and co-operation have made it possible for the propaganda to be carried on successfully.

The object of the present scheme of restriction, as is well known, is to enable the growers to realise a fair price for their jute, and the recent trend of prices indicates that this object is likely to be achieved. It has, however, been suggested in some quarters that the possibility of increased sowings next year, coupled with uncertainty as to the future policy of Government, may affect the price obtainable by the growers at the time of harvest. Government have therefore decided to announce their determination to watch the situation carefully and, if necessary, to repeat next year the measures which have been adopted this season for ensuring a fair price for the cultivators of jute. It is as yet too early to decide definitely whether restriction will be necessary next year, and if so to what extent, but Government will make an announcement on this point later in the year.

It is hardly possible to congratulate the Government on the above *communiqué*. It fails to enlighten the jute growers and dealers on the precise point on which they have been anxiously looking up for information, viz., the continuance or otherwise of the policy of restriction. It appears that the Government have as yet no definite and reliable data on which to base their recommendations and hence they can state nothing which might serve as a guidance to the jute growers and the jute trade. If, as the Government state, "it is yet too early to decide definitely whether restriction will be necessary next year, and if so, to what extent", one fails

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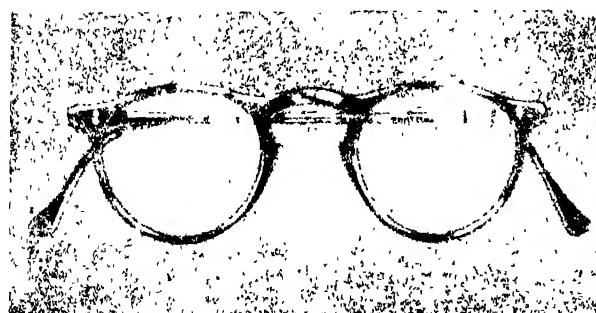
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to see the *raison d'être* of the present statement. The Government are not still certain that the prescribed quota of restriction will be secured and yet they have hastened to acknowledge the services of the numerous officials and non-officials who have helped or taken part in the propaganda for restriction. This is rather premature. One cannot but hold that for such felicitation as they have expressed, the Government should have waited till they could know definitely the results of the propaganda. It is, no doubt, in the propriety of things to render thanks where thanks are due. Neither is it denied that here and there officials and non-officials have shown commendable zeal for the work with which they were entrusted, using all the eloquence and persuasiveness they could command to bring home to the cultivators the need for restricting the output. This must have had its effect in curtailed sowings : the high position of the preachers and propagandists, where such men took the field, was very likely to have contributed to the same effect. But it must not be unknown to the Government that late rains and flood have, in numerous areas, contributed as much as, if not more than, propaganda to the reduction in acreage or output which would ultimately be found to have taken place. Another consideration which disfavours such felicitation or thanksgiving is that it very unfortunately lends colour to the not unreasonable view that the restriction policy is going to be abandoned as being no longer necessary. If the Government have no such intention, their statement has done them a disservice by creating an unnecessary apprehension abroad about a course of action which they are not going to adopt.

Granted that success—and unqualified success has attended Government efforts at restriction, can it not be held that even then they owe it to the province to continue their present policy ? The Government themselves admit that restriction of the acreage under jute was only a means to an end which is an improvement in the price fetched by jute. No doubt there is recently in evidence a tendency to an upward movement in the price. But this may, as likely as not, have been the effect of manipulation with the intent of inducing the idea that restriction need not be continued. After all, it is to be seen if the upward tendency is maintained and the object fully achieved. The Bengal National Chamber of Commerce has very rightly held that permanent improvement cannot take place until 50 per cent of a year's stock which is held by the jute stockists including the mills in excess of their current year's requirements is wiped out ; and that inasmuch as under the present scheme (on the assumption it has been successful) the acreage has been reduced only to the extent of 3½ per cent (5 as. out of 16 as.) the Government should have no hesitation in continuing their policy of restriction.

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## Matters of Moment

### BRITISH CABINET CHANGES

In some time past, rumours have been passing current that the "National" Government would either resign or re-form itself. The health of the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, had not been good for some time and the passage of the India Bill through the House of Commons (Sir Samuel Hoare making the final valedictory speech on June 4) offered the opportunity for reorganization of the British Cabinet. On the 8th of June, Mr. MacDonald issued a "message" from 10, Downing Street stating clearly that the reasons for his retirement as Prime Minister were considerations of health as he needs rest and respite badly after the six years of arduous strain to which he had been subjected while holding office of the Premier during a critical time and that his resignation had "nothing to do with matters of opinion or policy". In other words, the present character of the National Government based on the co-operation of all the parties in the House would continue.

So Mr. MacDonald goes out of 10, Downing Street though not out of the Cabinet, for in the reformed Cabinet he would hold the office of the "Lord President of the Council" which is in the nature of a sinecure, held, in the outgoing Cabinet by Mr. Stanley Baldwin. Mr. Baldwin, as expected, becomes the Prime Minister and thus formally assumes the leadership which properly belongs to him. These are, however, not the only changes. The most important change that affects India is the transference of Sir Samuel Hoare from the India Office to the Foreign Office and his succession by Lord Zetland, the ex-Governor of Bengal. This change has caused considerable surprise and a certain amount of speculation. Lord Zetland's sympathies are well-known and he comes to his new office with the good will of all India and an intimate knowledge of the country over whose affairs he will be called upon to preside—both of which will be great assets in the discharge of his responsible duties which will commence rightaway when the India Bill is taken to the House of Lords. But his Lordship's views on the Communal Award are also well-known, which are not quite in accord—particularly so far as Bengal is concerned—with the views that found acceptance in the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. He will, of course, have to accommodate himself to the prevailing view and his recent announcement also confirms it, but even then his position will be a bit intriguing; and his Lordship's utterances and activities will be keenly watched with a critical eye both in Great Britain and India.

Sir Samuel Hoare brings nothing but an amazing capacity of the mind and body to bear on his new office as Foreign Secretary. His views on foreign affairs have been seldom expressed—but perhaps that is a qualification for his new post. It was somewhat confidently expressed that Mr. Anthony Eden, Sir John Simon's understudy, whose acquaintance with the European situation is first-rate and intimate, should be appointed to the Foreign Office if Sir John Simon goes. Sir John has not made a success as Foreign Secretary and it was guessed in well-informed circles that he would be replaced. Mr. Anthony Eden, however, remains in the Foreign Office with a special portfolio for League of Nations affairs, thus relieving Sir Samuel of a heavy work and at the same time enabling the Cabinet to utilise the knowledge and experience of Mr. Eden. Sir John Simon becomes Home Secretary.

The following is a more complete list of the important changes that have been made in the new reorganization of the Cabinet :

Prime Minister—Mr. Stanley Baldwin (Nat Cons)

Lord President of the Council—Mr. Ramsay McDonald (Nat Lab)

Home Secretary—Sir John Simon (Nat Lib)

Foreign Secretary—Samuel Hoare (Nat Cons)

Dominions Secretary—Mr. J. H. Thomas (Nat Lab) unchanged.

Colonies Secretary—Mr. Malcolm MacDonald (Nat Lab.)

India Secretary—The Marquess of Zetland (Nat Cons)

War Secretary—Lord Halifax (Nat Cons) (formerly President  
of the Board of Education.)

Air Secretary—Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister (Nat Cons)

(formerly Colonial Secretary)

Secretary for Scotland—Sir Godfrey Collins (Nat Lib) unchanged.

Chancellor of the Exchequer—Mr. Neville Chamberlain (Nat Cons)  
unchanged

Minister without portfolio for League of Nations work—Mr. Anthony  
Eden (Nat Cons) (formerly Lord Privy Seal)

Lord High Chancellor—Viscount Hailsham (Nat Cons)

(formerly War Minister)

Lord Privy Seal—Lord Londonderry (Nat Cons) (formerly  
Minister of Air)

Minister for Health—Sir Kingsley Wood (Nat Cons) (formerly  
Postmaster-General)

President of the Board of Trade—Mr. Walter Runciman (Nat Lib)  
unchanged.

President of the Board of Education—Mr. Oliver Stanley (Nat Cons)  
(formerly Minister for Labour)

First Lord of the Admiralty—Sir Bolton Eyres-Monsell (Nat Cons)  
unchanged

Minister of Agriculture—Mr. Walter E. Elliot (Nat Cons) unchanged

Minister of Labour—Mr. Ernest Brown (Nat Lib) (formerly  
Parliamentary Secretary of Mines)

## THE QUETTA EARTHQUAKE AND AFTER

The earthquake which shook Quetta in the early hours of the 31st May last is now a month old and yet the story of the devastation has not been completely told. The ruin has been so complete and the loss of life and damage to property so heavy that it will be yet some time before a full assessment could be, if ever, made.

The official estimate which later on has shown itself to be an underestimate put the figure of deaths due to the earthquake at 50,000, 26,000 occurring in Quetta and 24,000 in Kalat. The total population of Quetta was 40,000.

The city itself is now so much devastated that one part can scarcely be recognized from another. Apart from the damage caused to private property, the damage to Government civil buildings is estimated officially at Rs. 50,00,000, the damage to military buildings exceeding both these sums put together. The police quarters and the Royal Air Force quarters have been completely razed.

Immediately after the earthquake, martial law was declared in the city to prevent looting etc., and a few hours later a military cordon was placed round the city (or what was left of it) a ban being placed on the entry of all except official relief parties which were promptly organised. One reason for placing the ban was the protection of the public health of the city, for, on account of the large number of rapidly decomposing dead bodies and the emanation of foul and poisonous gas, any large influx of visitors from outside was considered undesirable and a source of embarrassment rather than of help. The scarcity of water supply and shortage of food and shelter would, in the view of the Government, have made the presence of outsiders other than those whose presence were indispensable for purposes of organizing relief and protection a problem of great difficulty. In accordance with this policy, even the relief party organized by the Congress has been refused access to the affected area though it was announced that it would make its own arrangements for food and accommodation. The Government of India were, however, so particular in carrying out its policy of admitting none but official relief parties for rescue and salvage work that they have even penalised a number of newspapers for publishing certain articles strongly criticising the Government's attitude in regard to Quetta relief. In Calcutta, a Relief Committee was set up and a fund started for the relief of Quetta sufferers by the Mayor of the city, but in view of the attitude of the Government, the Committee and the Fund have been dissolved.

It must, however, be said to the credit of the Government of India, judging from the reports available, that they have not lost a moment in coming to the rescue of Quetta and organizing relief. The Earthquake Relief Fund started by His Excellency the Viceroy who is keeping personal touch with the relief operations is having a good response. In fact the

whole world has been moved at the Quetta disaster. Relief has been organized even in London on the initiative of the Lord Mayor. His Majesty King George V has donated £ 500 and Her Majesty Queen Mary £ 250 towards the Fund. The British Government have decided to make a grant of £ 50,000 towards relief and even far-off Australia has given evidence of her sympathy by agreeing to contribute £ 10,000. The Government of India have decided to make a grant of Rs. 10 lakhs. Collections in Britain at present exceed £ 8300 and those for the Viceroy's Fund total Rs. 23 lakhs. This is apart from Government grants and assistance in other shape than monetary, for instance evacuation and repatriation of refugees at Government cost.

Nevertheless, it is extremely regrettable that bonafide relief parties—particularly the party organised by the Congress on the initiative of Mahatma Gandhi and Babu Rajendra Prasad—have been totally banned in Quetta. Those who have had intimate knowledge of the splendid work which non-official relief parties did on the occasion of the Bihar Earthquake are unanimously of the opinion that on account of the attitude of the Government, not only has a splendid opportunity of official and non-official co-operation in the sacred task of relieving the sufferings of the distressed been lost but the work of rescue and salvage must have suffered considerably. It is noteworthy that after a few days of labour, the work of the salvage of property had to be postponed in Quetta. That it was a matter of deep concern would be evident from the hint given by Babu Rajendra Prasad at the time that men and women buried under the debris could be found living even after several days have passed. He was speaking from his experience of salvage operations in connection with the Bihar earthquake.

Civil control has, however, been resumed with effect from the 12th June last and Mr. B. M. Staig, Military Financial Adviser to the Government of India, has been appointed Earthquake Commissioner. The Military have been replaced by civil guards and a limited number of outsiders is now being admitted for the purposes of the identification of property.

## **PROTECTION TO THE GLASS INDUSTRY**

The Report of the Tariff Board on the Glass Industry together with the Government Resolution on the subject was released to the public on the 21st June last.

The inquiry into the glass industry was referred to the Board in the Government of India Commerce Department's resolution dated the 20th October, 1931, so that the period of the inquiry and the formulation of the Government's decision on it took three years and eight months. In fact, there could be no better instance of the leisurely fashion in which the Government of India have proceeded in the matter of protection to the glass industry than the fact that the decision taken on the

recommendations of the Board even after about four years of consideration is yet tentative.

The glass industry in India, by which is meant the manufacture of glass and glass articles, started in 1892. Its first record is one of failure and at the outbreak of War in 1914, only three of some 21 factories which had been established since 1892 (16 being established between the years 1896 and 1913) were in operation and not one of them was commercially successful. The War, which stopped the foreign imports, changed the situation, and by 1918 about 20 factories were at work including 7 engaged entirely in the manufacture of glass for bangles.

With the cessation of War, foreign glass factories found a large surplus output and competition in India intensified. At present, it is estimated, there are 59 factories working in India of which 26 are entirely concerned in the manufacture of bangles and one in the manufacture of false pearls. The distribution shows that the United Provinces heads the list with 23 bangle and false pearl factories and eleven others, while Bengal is second with one bangle factory and ten other glass factories. The progress of the industry in spite of competition shows that the value of the annual output of bangles in India has increased from about Rs 20 lakhs in 1920 to upwards of Rs. 115 lakhs (in 1931) and the value of other kinds of glassware is now estimated at about 25 per cent higher than the Rs. 20 lakhs at which it was put in 1920.

As regards the extent of competition that the Indian glass industry has to face, the following table taken from a recent note submitted by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce to the Commerce Secretary of the Government of India will prove of interest :

	Selling price of Japanese goods	Selling price of Indian goods	Cost of production of local factories
Tumblers per dozen	-/12/-	-/12/-	-/12/-
Jars $\frac{1}{2}$ lb „ „	-/14/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/13/6	-/14/6
Jars 1 lb „ „	1/3/-	1/1/-	1/13/-
Jars 2 lb „ „	1/13/3	1/13/-	2/10/-

The items chosen are typical. It will be seen that except in the case of Tumblers, the Indian goods are selling considerably below the cost of production. The power of Japan to undersell will be easily understood from the fact that the prices given in the table include not only the transportation and other incidental charges but also the import duties leviable at present on the different categories of glass ware.

It is thus natural that the industry should be clamouring for protection. The question, therefore, which the Tariff Board had to decide was whether the Indian glass industry satisfied the conditions laid down by the Indian Fiscal Commission for the protection of an infant industry.

The view of the Tariff Board—which consisted of Dr. John Matthai as President and Messrs. Fazl Ibrahim Rahimtoola and G. T. Boag as

Members—was that the industry satisfied the requisite conditions for protection ; and they thus expressed themselves : "If reasonable improvements are effected in equipment and processes of manufacture and if a large output can be secured, the Indian glass industry will be able eventually to meet foreign competition unaided". To enable the industry to fulfil that eventuality, the Tariff Board recommended the following scales of protective duties for the different categories of glass ware for a period of ten years :—

- (i) Sheet and plate glass including figured and ribbed glass—Rs 4 per 100 sq. ft. or 25 p. c. *ad valorem* whichever is higher,
- (ii) Bangles, beads and false pearls—50 p. c. *ad valorem*
- (iii) Glass and glassware including containers other than those containing merchandise packed according to ordinary trade usage, illuminating ware, table and domestic ware, and tiles, roofing and floor—50 p. c. *ad valorem*

The Tariff Board took considerable pains to prove that the burden of the protective duties recommended would not be heavy for the consumers.

The Government of India, however, in their Resolution accompanying the Report are not satisfied that the case of the glass industry for protection has been established by the Board. They argue that soda ash which is one of the important raw materials used in the manufacture of glass is imported and it constitutes 70 or 75 per cent of the total cost of materials in the U. P., and 30 to 45 per cent even at the ports of entry. The absence of indigenous supplies of this raw material "constitutes a disadvantage to the industry which cannot possibly be balanced by any advantages which it possesses in other respects." Thus it vitiates one of the important conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commission. The Government also point out that the case is similar to that of protection of the cable industry. In that case, the Tariff Board itself held that the absence of indigenous supplies of copper was a fatal obstacle, to the grant of protection.

This is in reply to the Tariff Board's finding that the dependence of the glass industry on imported soda ash should not be regarded as a bar to protection because, on the balance, the industry possessed sufficient natural advantages.

The Board further pointed out that there were possibilities of indigenous supplies of soda ash being obtainable ere long, but the Government of India find that in this study of the situation the Board have been unduly optimistic.

"It is possible, however", the Resolution adds, "that a fresh source of supply may be available within the next few years at Khewra, and the Government of India do not propose to take a final decision on the claim for protection until the possibilities of this new source have been more fully explored".

Without prejudice, therefore, to any decision that the Government of India may finally feel persuaded to take, they want to afford the glass manufacturing industry a certain measure of relief by offering a complete rebate of duty in respect of the soda ash imported from the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire for use in the manufacture of glass, and in case of non-British imports of soda ash, a rebate of any excess over 10 per cent *ad valorem*. This arrangement is to hold good for three years, and in the meanwhile, there would be further consideration.

Commercial interests in our country while welcoming this relief stress its inadequacy, for the rebate amounts to a protection of 2 to 3 per cent only. It is pointed out that the Government of India have exaggerated the importance of soda ash in the manufacture of glass. If the Government, instead of taking into account the total cost of materials, had considered, as they ought to have, the total cost of production, they would have found these soda ash account for about 28 per cent of the cost in the case of sheet glass and 19 per cent only in the case blown glassware. In the case of the cable industry, copper was practically the only raw material used, which is not the case in respect of soda ash in the manufacture of glass. A more useful analogy is found in the case of paper for which the Tariff Board had recommended protection in spite of the fact that it depended largely on imported paper-pulp.

It is, in these circumstances, perfectly legitimate for the industry to be dissatisfied and the public to be critical.

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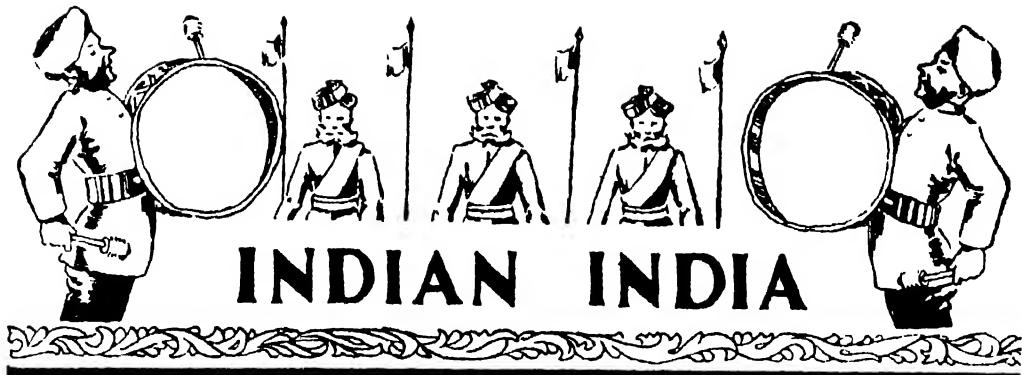
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## HYDERABAD

The Director of the Information Bureau, Hyderabad Government writes :—

"In connection with the vacancy created in the Executive Council as a result of the death of Nawab Valiud-Daula Bahadur, His Exalted Highness has been graciously pleased to appoint Raja Shamraj Bahadur, eldest son of the late Raja Raya Rayan, for three years with orders that, excepting the Education portfolio, the Departments in charge of the late Nawab Valiud-Daula (Military and Medical) should be held by Nawab Akeel Jung Bahadur while the Departments in charge of Nawab Akeel Jung Bahadur (Public Works) should henceforth be in charge of Raja Shamraj Bahadur. The Education portfolio will, until further instructions, be under Nawab Mehdi Yar Jung Bahadur. These arrangements will come into force from the first week of June."

\* \* \* \* \*

The recently issued administration report of the Hyderabad State Industries and Commerce Department for the year ending October 5, 1933, records further progress in cottage industries particularly the weaving industry. Miss McLeish, whose services, as already known to the readers of this Journal, were acquired from England for six months, introduced 77 new patterns and designs in the handloom, weaving, dhurry and carpet sections ; 67 in dyeing and printing, 7 in knitting and 31 in embroidery, besides giving advice to other sections not connected with weaving.

The Government Soap Factory whose retention had been ordered for one year again worked at a loss in the year under review. It has therefore been closed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hyderabad has now a separate broadcasting department with a board consisting of such high-placed officials as Sir Akbar Hydari and Nawab Akeel Jung Bahadur who are keenly interested in radio. The Board

has Nawab Zoolcader Jung Bahadur as secretary. The Department has decided to take over the plant which Mr. Syed Mahbub Ali had privately inaugurated and use it as a nucleus for extensive broadcasting arrangements in the State. Mr. Ali's scheme for development of broadcasting has been approved by the State Executive Council and has received the sanction of H. E. H. the Nizam. Mr. Ali has been appointed Director of the new Department and following his plan it has been decided to have immediately a first-rate wireless station at Hyderabad with a sub-station at Aurangabad. Provision has also been made extend the scheme to Warrangal and Gulbarga so that broadcasting through the various vernaculars in use in the State may materialise.

\* \* \* \* \*

H. E. H. the Nizam has contributed Rs. 15,000 to the Viceroy's Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund.

Raja Sir Kishen Pershad Bahadur, President of the Hyderabad State Council, has issued an appeal to the people to extend help to the victims of the earthquake. He says in course of the same : "While the people of this State may well raise their hands to Providence in thankfulness that they are safe in every way from such dire calamities, it is their good fortune that their very security places them in a position to render assistance to their fellow countrymen in their affliction."

\* \* \* \* \*

The following *communiqué* re : the cultivation of betel leaves, fruits and tobacco has been issued by H. E. H. the Nizam's Government :

In connection with the last report of the Customs Department, some sections of the local press have drawn attention to the importance of developing the cultivation of Betel leaves and fruits and of the Tobacco industry. One aspect of this development, namely the agricultural aspect, may be of interest to the public and the following brief account is therefore given of the activities of the Agricultural Department in this State in this respect.

Betel-vine plantations in many districts of the State used formerly to suffer from the attack of an insect called Betel-vine Bug. The matter was accordingly taken in hand four years ago, and an experimental plantation was started at Jankampet in the Nizamabad district, in the centre of the cultivators' plantations in the village, with a view to discovering some simple method to prevent the attack of the insect. The experiment has proved successful, and a simple method of growing the crop has been discovered which can keep the crop free from the insect. The Agricultural Department is now recommending this method to the cultivators and arrangements are being made to start practical village demonstrations of it in the coming season. Another plantation is proposed to be established soon at the Rudrur Farm in the Nizamsagar Canal area for the same purpose. There is a dearth of leaf of finer kinds of Betel in Hyderabad but an experiment is being started at the Himayatsagar Farm and a number of promising and fine varieties of Betel will be tried with the object of discovering the one most suited to this country. Its cuttings will then be supplied to the cultivators for growing in their fields.

In the matter of fruit production, the prospects have been found to be brighter still and the activities of the Department have aroused keen interest, with the result that a gradual improvement is already taking place. An extensive survey of the fruit-growing industry in the State has already been made and a report on this subject has already been published. An intensive survey is at present in progress in the district of Aurangabad, the famous fruit-growing district of the

State, while experimental gardens have been established at Himayatsagar, Sangareddi, Parbhani, Warangal and Raichur. A number of different good varieties of fruits are under trial there to find out the most suitable one for this country. The Agricultural Department has succeeded in obtaining a grant from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for research work on grapes and on custard apple and this work will be started as soon as the money is available from the Council. A series of nurseries for supply of good, reliable plants to the public is being established, with the object of having at least one nursery in each district and a beginning has already been made in this direction. Besides the nurseries at the Departmental farms, nurseries have been started at Gulburga, Bhongir, Nizamabad and Rudrur, and are supplying good plants. Accordingly, plants amounting to a few thousands have already been supplied from there. It may be pointed out that the Nizamabad district has been given two nurseries in consideration of the importance of the Nizamsagar Canal area. There are training classes at all the main Experimental Farms of the Department, in which training in proper methods of gardening is given. Some students have already passed out and are serving in private gardens. Experiments with Cocoanuts have also been started at the Departmental farms, but it will be some time before results of these are available for general application.

With regard to tobacco, experiments with different good varieties are already in progress at various Departmental farms. In the meantime, a grant from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for experiments on improved methods of curing the tobacco leaf is expected. An Assistant was deputed for training in this particular subject to the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, he has now returned after completion of the training, and the experimental work will be started as soon as the money is available from the Council.

\* \* \*

Prince Azamjah Bahadur, heir-apparent to H. E. H. the Nizam, is to be congratulated on his recent successful *shikar* trip in the Warangal forests, during which he bagged 34 tigers, of whom four were man-eaters who were terrorising the district in recent months, eight bears, four crocodiles and innumerable horned game. It was a record performance of which the Prince may justly be proud.

### BARODA

The Baroda Government have notified in the State Gazette an amendment to the existing rules under the Co-operative Societies Act whereby they make it incumbent on all members of a co-operative society to furnish a statement giving full particulars about the nature and price of the moveable and immovable property held by them and also a declaration on oath in writing as to the correctness of the particulars supplied as well as an assurance not to dispose of the same property either by way of sale, mortgage or gift as long as the monies advanced on loan by the society are not repaid or to let out on lease for a period exceeding three years, without the permission of the society. It is also provided that anyone found acting in contravention of the provisions mentioned above, will be penalised to the extent of one year's imprisonment of either kind or a fine up to Rs. 500 or both.

\* \* \*

The special correspondent of the *Hindu* understands that agreement has been reached between the Baroda Government and the Government of India on the question of levying customs duty on foods entering India

through Okha (Baroda) port. The terms of the settlement which are likely to be announced shortly, so far as he is able to gather, are that Baroda will hand over all the sea customs revenue that it collects at its port to the Government of India and the latter in return will pay Rs. 30 lakhs every year to Baroda State which will follow the British Indian customs schedule and appraise goods under the supervision of the Government of India. Okha is a new and growing port on the western coast, where all big steamers from America, Europe and Japan call at and which has attracted a portion of Bombay's maritime trade.

### MYSORE

In the last budget session of the Mysore Representative Assembly emphatic representations were made of the ryots' inability to pay the kists due to Government and there upon a non-official resolution demanding the reduction of land revenue assessment by 25 per cent was carried. The Government declared their inability to grant any general remission on a percentage basis such as was demanded but promised to consider cases of individual districts and grant remission where they deemed it necessary. Another resolution was moved urging the need for the expansion of primary education in the State. The Government stated in reply that although according to the Primary Education Regulation the financial responsibility was to have been shared 50-50 by the Government and the Local Education Authorities and the Government had, in consideration of the worsened economic position of these authorities, increased their own share to 60 per cent, yet, excepting Mysore and Kolar Gold Fields, no other local bodies had found funds for primary education. The Government have sanctioned this year Rs. 15,000 more than in the previous year. Under the head "Grant for Public Improvements" the non-officials secured Government's promise for the sanction of a further sum of Rs. 25,000 for digging drinking water wells.

On the legislative side, the Agriculturists' Relief Regulation Amending Bill and the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to labour in factories were among the measures which received the general approval of the House. The former will remove the hardships to which creditors are at present subject and improve the credit of the agriculturists ; and the latter by raising the age-limit of children employed in factories and reducing the number of working hours would confer considerable benefit on the factory labourers.

\* \* \*

In their report reviewing prison conditions in the State the Committee which were specially appointed by the Mysore Government for the purpose have recommended *inter alia* the enactment of a Children's Act, the establishment of a Borstal School and the inauguration of a system of half-yearly visits by combined official and non-official visitors. The Government have accepted the last recommendation, and in regard to

the other two, have started investigation, proposing to issue separate orders as soon as a decision is arrived at. The two other suggestions of the Committee which the Government propose to give effect to as soon as funds permit are the provision of an extra earthen pot to each prisoner to hold *ragi* pudding and the introduction of the flushing system of latrines in the prisons.

\* \* \* \*

Enthusiasm is rife in the State for the Child Marriage Restraint Bill sponsored by Mr. G. Channappa, which is likely to be introduced in the current session of the Mysore Legislative Council. Meetings are being held in support of it all over the State, only a small section of the Hindu community opposing.

The Bill was originally drafted by the Mysore Civic and Social Progress Association and was first introduced by its president, Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty, as a private Bill at the budget session of the Mysore Representative Assembly in June, 1932 and was carried by 98 votes to 87. The present measure is intended to prevent the marriage of girls below 14 years of age and of boys below 21 years in the Mysore State.

The womenfolk are keen supporters of the Bill. Successive sessions of ladies' conferences have expressed their sympathy for the objects of the measure in no uncertain terms : they are even in favour of raising the marriageable age of girls to 16. It is understood that they would lead a deputation to the Dewan on the eve of the Council meeting.

### TRAVANCORE

Mr. N. K. P. Pillai, Director of Industries, Travancore Government, will, it is understood, attend the meeting of the Advisory Council of Industrial Intelligence and Research which will be held in Simla on July 6. Travancore is one of the few States which it has been thought necessary to represent on the Council whose object is to act as a co-ordinating authority for industrial research and the collection and dissemination of industrial intelligence. The forthcoming session, which will be the first session of the Council, is expected to consider subjects some of which will be of considerable interest to the State.

\* \* \* \*

The Government have, it is understood, decided to start a model colony for the depressed classes in Trivandrum. Suitable sites are being examined for the purpose. It is proposed to construct model houses with sanitary arrangements, water-supply etc. with provision for a school, play-ground and other amenities.

Proposals for establishing a depressed classes colony in South Travancore are also under consideration.

What may be taken as a proof, if any proof were needed at this date, of the Government's readiness, nay extreme concern, to do away with restraints as soon as the necessity for them disappears, has been provided by their cancellation of a prohibitory order passed 18 years ago. The Eshavas of Alleppey could not, under this order, take in procession the portrait of their Guru Sri Narayana Guruswami during the birthday celebration of the Guru through the northern and southern banks of the Alleppey Canal on the ground that such procession might lead to breach of the peace. The Government now consider that under altered circumstances the procession may be taken out without any risk as to breach of the peace and hence they have rescinded their previous order.

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It is understood that the Travancore Legislative Assembly will shortly be called upon to consider the provisions of a Civil Marriage Bill framed on the line of a similar measure in British India by a non-official member Mr. Kottur Kunja Krishna Pillai. The Bill is intended to validate marriages between persons who belong to different communities or castes, to provide for dissolution of such marriages and to lay down rules of intestate succession for entrants into them. It prescribes 25 and 18 as the marriageable ages of men and women respectively and has adopted the provisions of the Nayar Regulation I of 1088 and the Eshava Regulation regarding divorce.

Provision is made for the separation of a member of a joint family who marries under the Regulation. Protection is accorded to the rights of persons who happen to lose caste or change their religion, an exception being made in the case of religious offices and trusts. The Bill makes no distinction between the sexes either in the matter of succession or in regard to separate and independent title to property. Expenses of maintenance of the wife and minor children are however made a charge on the husband's property. The widow and the children in the first place succeed to the intestate's property and they share equally. There is also no distinction between sons and daughters.

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Following the recommendations of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the joint vote of the Travancore Legislature in favour of the appointment of agricultural marketing officers arrangements are afoot for the appointment of such officers in the State.

An enquiry into present methods of marketing farm products is in progress. It is understood that the investigations will be comprehensive including the methods of production, the cost of production and the possibilities of increased production, existing facilities for assembling, grading, storing, transport, the agencies employed in these processes, the constitution and working of existing markets, the availability of market intelligence.

The Central Marketing Section to which the local reports are to be submitted will, in their final report, study the question of marketing any particular commodity in relation to local, inter-State, inter-provincial and foreign trade and thus contribute its share to the formulation of a common basis of Indian economic progress.

### **PUDUKOTTAH**

Following Sir Alexander Tottenham's announcement in his speech at the opening of the Budget Session of the Legislative Council the Durbar has issued orders directing the introduction of cut in the salary of all officers and clerks in the State with effect from the first July 1935. It has directed that the pay of all State officers except those entertained on contract shall be reduced with effect from that date, until further orders, at the rate of six pies in the rupee for officers drawing Rs. 25 or over but less than Rs. 100 per mensem and at the rate of one anna in the rupee for officers drawing Rs. 100 per mensem or more.

It is estimated that the total saving due to the cut will amount to Rs. 21,000.

### **TRIPURA**

Three events of more than usual importance are taking place in Agartala when His Highness the Maharaja Manikya Bahadur will perform the ceremony of laying the foundation stones of the proposed X'Ray Ward attached to the local hospital, the local mosque and the *Chaturdasha Devatas'* temple. The erection of the last mentioned temple will give effect to the desire to bring the *Chaturdasha Devatas* who are the presiding deities of the House of Tripura and are installed at a distance of 5 miles from Agartala, nearer to the palace. The addition of the X'Ray Ward was announced during His Majesty's Silver Jubilee celebration to commemorate the event. But it is the third event viz. the foundation of a mosque by His Highness who is one of the principal Hindu rulers which is invested with special significance. It is learnt that the Musjid will be styled "Maharaja's Masjid".

### **MAYURBHANJ**

The Ruler of Mayurbhanj has launched a comprehensive scheme of road and bridge construction which when completed will facilitate communications between Calcutta or Ranchi and Baripada. His Highness has in contemplation a town-planning scheme which includes town extension. Development of cottage industries and marketing of lac, silk cocoons, hides and other products of the State are engaging the attention of the Maharaja.

### **SURGUJA**

The Maharaja Sahib of Surguja in the Central Provinces has in honour of Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee granted a remission of Rs. 12,000 in land revenue and in agricultural loans, thus gladdening the hearts of

cultivators. This is in addition to the remissions already granted to the excise and forest lessees.

### **COCHIN**

Speaking at a tea-party at Trichur, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty is reported to have said that during the short period of two months of his association with His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin, he had come to realise that the Maharaja was the most constitutional ruler, having at heart the interests of the public committed to his care. He (the speaker) was sure that the facts being what they were, he would have complete support and co-operation from that quarter in all that he wanted to do for furthering the interests of the subjects and the State.

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In view of the growing importance of the Cochin harbour, the Cochin Government are constructing a light house which will be visible from a distance of 16 miles and thus will afford ample guidance to ocean-going vessels.

The Cochin Government are reported to be carrying on negotiations with the Government of Madras with a view to securing the loan of a British officer with the necessary experience to organise the proposed land mortgage bank in Cochin. The bank is likely be a *fait accompli* in six months. Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, the Dewan, is keen on the establishment of the land mortgage bank as he considers that that is the only means of alleviating the acute distress now prevailing among the agriculturists.

### **INDORE**

A number of important measures will come up for discussion at the next session of the State Legislative Committee which is to commence on the 15th July. Rai Shahib Bhargava will move his Bill to amend the Indore City Municipalities Act which provides for the constitution of a Council of 33 members two-thirds of whom will be elected and the remainder nominated by the Government, for the election of a non-official president and the complete transfer to the Council of control over the Municipal Executive.

Another Bill, called the Caste Tyrannies Bill, also stands in the name of Mr. Bhargava. Among other measures the Committee will consider Mr. Tambe's Usurious Loans Bill whose object is to protect people in general and agriculturists in particular from the clutches of extortionate moneylenders.

### **JODHPUR**

The Jodhpur Durbar is to be congratulated on its practice of employing a portion of the State funds in giving loans to the State employees for house construction purposes. Since 1932 Rs. 4 lakhs have been lent in this way. Originally loans used to be given to highly paid officials

only, but the scheme has now been extended to low paid staff so that an employee drawing a salary of Rs. 60 or more can avail himself of the loan. The scheme is likely to speed up the development of Jodhpur and the Durbar can well count on it to secure the contentment of its employees and through it their efficiency.

### **BAHWALPUR**

The Publicity Officer, Bahawalpur Government, writes that ever since economic depression set in and agriculture fell on evil days, the State authorities have been continually granting liberal remissions in land revenue, water rates etc., to the agriculturists with a view to lessening their liabilities and raising the level of their efficiency. During the last *Kharif* crop handsome general remissions were granted, and now on the recommendation of a committee appointed to investigate the question of remission and suspension, they have announced further concessions. They have directed that collection on acreage rate will remain suspended throughout the State as in the past; that remissions granted under ordinary *Kharaba* rules to Panjnad area will continue; that in Fort Abban and Fort Marot sub-tehsils remissions of 2 as. and 4 as. respectively per rupee of the total demand (excluding *malikana* of *Rabi* crops) will be granted; that Forwdwah proprietary areas and Cholistan perennial proprietary areas are to receive remissions of 2 as. per rupee and Re. 1.8 as per acre respectively of the total demand; that *Abadkars* are to pay Rs. 1.8 per allotted acre as *malikana* instead of Rs. 3 during this harvest.

### **BONAI STATE**

The Publicity Officer, Bonai State, has released the following news regarding the State for publication :

*Health* :--Vigorous efforts are being made to prevent cholera spreading into the State from Raghunathpali Police Station in Gangpur and the area south and west of Borobil in Keonjhar. Only four cases have been reported within the State so far: all 4 were cases of imports and were not followed by any fresh attacks. In Koria Pargana people have been inoculated with cholera vaccines and the disease seems to be checked. In Banki Pargana which is close to Panposh in Gangpur State where cholera is raging, precautionary measures have been taken by inoculating about 500 people there residing along the line of communication. In Sadar Elaka the Chief Medical Officer is daily proceeding to the interior to take precautionary measures. There were cases of small pox in Kamarposh Balaugh thana, but prompt steps being taken to vaccinate people in the affected area the disease is reported to be disappearing.

*Birth-day Honours* :—Rai Bahadur Chunilal Ray, Dewan of the State, has been awarded a Kaisir-i-Hind Medal second class. He also received a Silver Jubilee Medal.

*Visits* :—The Educational and Forest Advisers of the Eastern States recently paid a visit to this State. The Ruling Chief of Talcher, Bara Kumar and Lal Sahebs of Bamra, Patait Saheb of Talcher, Thakur Saheb of Basargarh and Jaria Thakur Sahib's brother also graced the State with their presence.

The Raja Saheb gave a garden party followed by a theatrical performance at the Rajbati to meet the Forest Adviser of the States, who by his kind dealings and gentle manners has endeared himself to all. At the conclusion of the performance Mrs. Hart gave away the medals to the candidates who came out successful at the Chaitra Parba Festival dances.

*Mines* :—Dr. T. Das Gupta, Ph. D. (London), D.I.E., who was deputed to carry on a mineral survey of some parts of this State, has submitted his report showing the existence, besides iron and manganese, of other minerals viz., manganite (soft manganese), white clay, gold and steatite.

*Forest* :—Applications for leases of extensive forest areas from both Europeans and Indians are being considered by the Ruling Chief.

For improving the condition of the Hill Kols, Bhuyans and other aborigines, they are being induced to take up regular cultivation and give up wanton destruction of wild life. Rewards have been proclaimed for catching wild animals.

*Bonai Sanskrit Tol* :—Recently the Raja Saheb visited the Sanskrit Tol. This Tol is a unique institution started to impart to the Brahmin priesthood and students a working knowledge of the Sastras, correct way of pronouncing *mantras* and a practical lesson on performance of the various religious ceremonies connected with daily Pujas in temples and the usual ceremonies in households of *Upanayan*, marriage and *Sradh*.

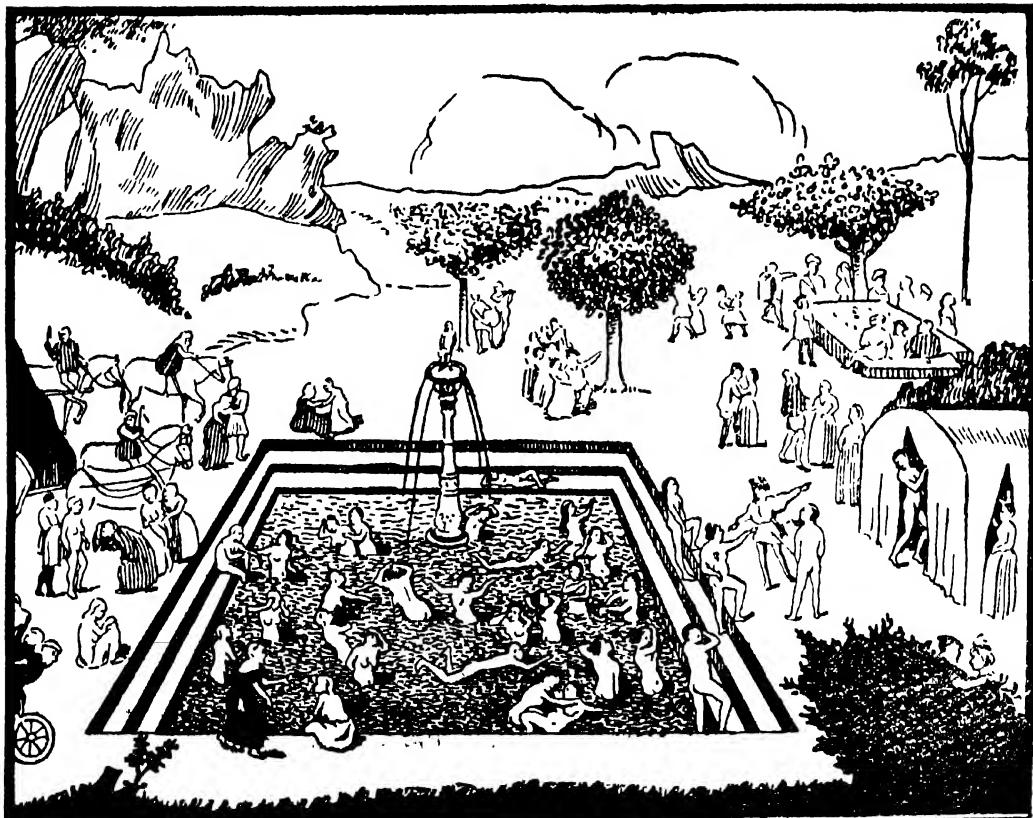
## REWA

His Highness the Maharaja of Rewa is making an interesting experiment in his State in order to encourage youngmen to take to agriculture. New rules for settlement of lands have been framed by his Government providing for a diminishing scale of rent in accordance with the educational qualifications of the applicants. It has been announced that the higher the academic qualifications of an agriculturist, the lower would be the rent chargeable on his land.

# Rejuvenation

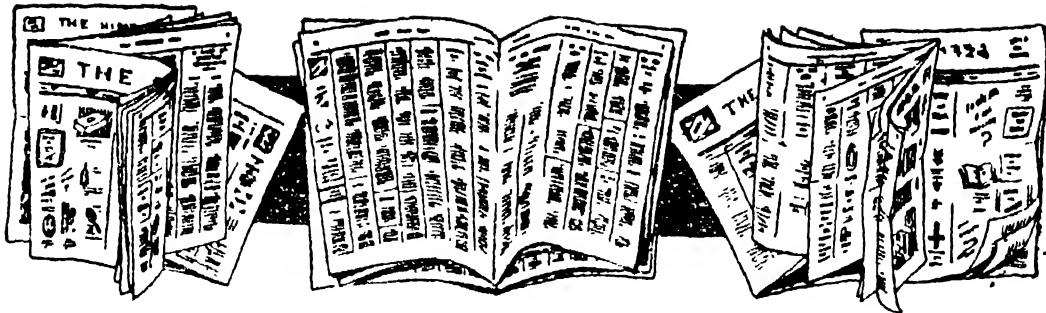
BY DR. S. SEN GUPTA, M. B.

**H**EALTH is the most covetable thing for all, rich and poor. Though from the moral point of view, religious matters are most important, all people whether good or bad, desire to possess sound health till the last moment of their life. Not to speak of men alone, the Gods also, the embodiment of all virtue and all knowledge, are said to have churned the ocean to find out nectar which gave them eternal youth. Men, therefore, can, without the least hindrance from moral sentiments, enjoy every moment of their life. Even wordly-minded people, who pass their lives in accordance with the principles of health and hygiene, can die with this consolation,—with this conviction in their minds,—that premature infirmity could not embitter their lives. Maturity follows youth, and old age follows maturity,—these are the inevitable laws of the Almighty.



But even if old age or infirmity were to come in time, every one earnestly desires to have his youth restored. Such indeed is the glory of youth, such is its allurement ! It is not from recent times, but, in fact, from the beginning of creation, that men have learnt to appreciate the value of youth. Examples of many great men of our country trying to get themselves rejuvenated in their old age, are not few in our Sastras and Puranas. The attempts of Cyavana and Yayati are too well known in our country. Not only in our country, but also in other countries of the earth, such attempts have been going on from time immemorial. Even if we are to exclude the question of regaining health by taking proper diet and exercise, many people are known to have bathed,—and many still do so,—in some particular river, or well, or tank, or spring, from an honest belief that this would restore their youth.

The above picture is that of "Der Jungbrunnen", the well known spring of Germany. The original of this drawn by Lukas Cranach (1472-1553) is preserved in the Kaiser Frederick Museum of Berlin. The picture shows many old men and women coming from distant countries to have a bath in the spring. Many are seen bathing, while others, who have perhaps finished it, are seen engaged in sports and frivolities. Up to the 15th century, the Germans honestly believed that a bath in this spring of "Der Jungbrunnen" would give them the freshness of youth. This blind faith has, however, long gone. Now whatever we may call it,—blind faith or otherwise,—the underlying truth still remains that it was an honest attempt to get rejuvenated. This much about the blind believers. Let us now take the case of the sceptics who believe in the efficacy of tangible substances. Though men failed to discover some ambrosia like the Gods, they probably, since the dawn of civilisation, devoted their energies to the discovery of natural herbs and mineral substances capable of arresting the hidden forces of decay, and infusing new life and hope into the despaired soul. Such attempt has been going on till this day. Modern scientists are not sitting idle. As a result of such an attempt, Voronoff, the well known Surgeon of Austria, has been able to restore the youth of many men and women by replacing their glands. Physicians also, with the accumulated medical experience of centuries, are trying to discover some such remedies competent to restore the freshness of youth. The discovery of Rochetone by the famous Roche Laboratories of Switzerland, is the result of such an honest attempt on the part of Scientists of International Repute. The powerful ingredients of this highly efficacious preparation are nothing but those that have been tried for centuries, and have been regarded as the eternal friends of Mankind and an intake of Rochetone has been found to bring in an ebb of youth even into a shattered constitution. Based on pure natural herbs and mineral substances, it is perfectly non-exciting and non-injurious and its regular use invariably restores the strength and vigour of youth, and enables all to enjoy life even to the last moment. It is therefore, regarded as an invaluable gift of modern science.



## Gleanings

### RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

Truly speaking, an Indian village is the home of poverty, disease and filth. The Indian villagers are the poorest, most ignorant and illiterate, and the villages that they live in are the ugliest spots on the face of the earth, writes Mr. G. S. Bedi, B.A. (Hons.) in an article entitled "The Village Calls You" contributed to the *Roy's Weekly*. The author has suggested an interesting scheme of rural uplift.

To purge these villages of these evils [says he] and to make the people literate and fit to discharge their civic and governmental responsibilities, is the task before those who want to espouse the cause of rural reconstruction.

A country-wide programme of rural reconstruction will solve the problem of unemployment among our educated young men- not that it will fill their pockets with money to lead a fashionable life but it will give them work and bread, and ample opportunities for making better the lives of other people as well as their own. The best way of village uplift work is to start with small units -say, a big village with five or six small villages in its neighbourhood. Each unit should be in the charge of a well-qualified young man. It is essential that he should live like the villagers--wear their clothes, eat their food and speak their tongue. He must be one of them and win their confidence and become their leader. He is to educate their mind by talks, lectures, shows and pictures, teach them how to read, write and cipher too; he is to make them clean and tidy and to teach them how to keep their houses, children, stables and the whole village with its street and ways, neat and healthy. He is to organise the villagers into clubs and teach them how to spend their leisure in useful pursuits and healthy amusements. He is to start co-operative societies of various kinds--co-operative farming, stores, shops, etc. He is to do this all by education, persuasion and co-operation.

He must, of course, work where there is no school and no *panchayat*. We cannot have schools everywhere; and for one school to work in several villages will be an impossible task. The schoolmasters and these young men must work in their proper spheres. It is in this plan that the salvation of the Indian village lies.

These "village guides" are to be selected from the colleges and universities.

Only those young men should be chosen whose hearts are full of love for the villages and who are thoroughly fitted to do this job and who have qualities of leadership in them. If each "village guide" be paid a monthly salary of Rs. 50 he can go on very well. (But I expect that a very large number of honorary workers will come forth to serve their motherland). He can marry a girl as well who may be fitted to help him in his task and may be a guide for the womenfolk. Rather the Government should find all the money to pay these young workers or the villages which he is to guide, should be taxed Rs. 600 a year. The workers before going into the villages must be trained for about 6 months at least.

## AGRICULTURAL INDEBTEDNESS IN BENGAL

Agricultural indebtedness in Bengal is a paradox, almost a contradiction in terms, with the province's fertility and favourable conditions of monsoon and rainfall, its abundance of rivers, canals and tanks, the fitness of its soil for the growth of a great variety of edible and commercial fruits, crops and plants, its large sea-board, the low cost of production and the very low rent payable by cultivators, says Mr. Hemendra Nath Roy M.A.B.L., in the May number of the *Insurance and Finance Review*.

Analysing the causes of this grievous phenomenon Mr. Roy says :

Uncontrolled growth of population without any emigration arrangements must lead to destitution and debt. Tyrannous customs of expenses for marriages and seaddhs (obsequial rites) are responsible for much of the poor man's debt. Strange as it may seem, the Sarda Act, conceived for the betterment of society, led to a great accession of debt, for it was thought by the more ignorant that it would operate as impediment to marriages and there was a rush to marry all children before the Act came into force. This threw the impetuous and thoughtless, we are tempted to say reckless, peasants into the arms of the Mahajan who charged exorbitant interest not infrequently 75 per cent per annum.

There is indeed, as will be urged in criticism, as so-called usury prevention Act to the effect that the courts are not to decree interest which is more than the principal. But this beneficent provision is being daily avoided and frustrated by what is known as the renewal of bonds whereby every three years, if not at lesser intervals, the interest is added on to the principal. In this wise the original principal goes on multiplying *ad infinitum* and the courts *feel bound to* decree interest on the principal appearing in the last bond although thereby the decretal amount comes to be many times the real original principal. . .

The whole countryside came to be under jute. The cultivator who had command of the muscles of his sturdy sons and not enough land to employ them all approached the Mahajan, borrowed money at high rates of interest and bought land at fancy prices calculating that the jute which he and his sons could grow would within a few years wipe out the debt. One point however, that was lost sight of in this calculation by the ignorant cultivator was that if the area under jute indefinitely increased and the production thereby multiplied, the prices must needs go down, especially as the market for jute was limited, practically confined to the few mill-owners who could and did control and dictate the prices. A large stock of jute accumulated in the hands of the mills so that we are told, sufficient jute to run the mills for the next several years is or was but recently in stock. The prices fell and the poor cultivator's debt remained and multiplied. He was at his wit's end. This is the present situation.

The remedies, according to him, may be thus indicated :

(1) The Bengal Tenancy Act has laid down that the interest on arrears of rent shall be 12½ p.c. and no more. This is, in all consequence, high enough, but the zemindar or landlord can, if he chooses, take a bond for the rent debt and convert it into a money debt carrying any rate of interest, 15, 20, 25 p.c. per annum or more, and such a bond need not be sued upon at the end of three years but may be renewed whereby the interest would be added to the principal.

By taking a bond for arrears of rent the landlord acquires the freedom of contractual rights which the law does not give him as the landlord. This leads to a frustration of the beneficent intention of the framers of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The law should immediately be amended to make this impossible, so that no landlord may charge more than 12½ p.c. interest per annum on an originally rent debt by assuming the role of a Mahajan by taking a bond.

(2) The law for the prevention of usuries should immediately be so amended that the renewal of bond whereby interest is added on to the principal should be

illegal and void and any bond which is really a renewed bond but is worded to show that it is a bond for a new loan should be regarded as an evidence for cheating and render the Mahajan, who takes a bond so worded, liable to be criminally punished.

(3) The proposed amendment mentioned above (Cl 2) should have retrospective effect and the courts should be required not to decree interest which is more than the *real* original principal and not the principal appearing in the last renewed bond. The Mahajans who have already taken renewed bonds should be required to take fresh bonds for the real original principal and these fresh bonds should save limitation if the real original debt was incurred more than three years ago.

(4) Renewal of bonds should be made illegal and void and if a debtor is unable to pay his debt within three years and endorsement on the back of the original bond acknowledging the debt and duly signed in full and thumb-marked should suffice to save limitation (this may slightly affect the stamp-revenue but save the country).

(5) No debt should carry more than 12½ p.c. interest.

(6) In Bengal the Government publishes every week the price of staple food crops and every bond for money in future should state the value of the money lent in terms of the crops e.g., if Rs. 10 is lent and if the price of the puncial paddy of the locality be Rs. 4 per maund, the bond should say that "Rs. 10 of which the value is 2½ maunds is lent." The debtor should be liable to deliver to the creditor the 2½ maunds and not Rs. 10 in repayment of the loan. He may, if he chooses, pay the price at the gazetted rate of the 2½ maunds prevailing at the time of repayment."

(7) This provision for the commutation of the money debt into the debt in kind should have a retrospective effect.

This measure will greatly alleviate the distress of the agriculturists of Bengal and of others also while real justice will not be denied to any one.

## FRUIT RESEARCH IN INDIA

The latest number of the *Industry* has the following on the progress and present state of fruit research in India :

Fruit research dates back to the middle of the 19th century. The records of fruit research done under the auspices of the Pusa Institute of Agriculture show that very little headway was made in this direction. This work chiefly deals with the establishment of a fruit farm at Quetta and some work on the drying and packing of vegetables. The United Provinces Department of Agriculture has restricted its activities to the establishment of farms and variety trials of exotic fruits. The Saharanpur Botanical Gardens have contributed substantially towards this work from the early years of the 19th century. The Tarnab fruit farm has shown active interest in the development of the fruit industry in the North-Western Frontier Province. The introduction of improved varieties of plums in this province is perhaps one of the few important projects which this farm has carried out successfully. Some observations on the improvement of fruit stock have also been recorded in the reports of the farm. The Punjab and Central Provinces Departments of Agriculture have also done some work. In the Punjab, a regular department of horticulture has been recently organised, and fruit work is making progress.

The Bombay Department of Agriculture organised the horticultural work as late as 1908 when the investigation on fruit trees was allied with botanical research. Their activities to evolve improved strains of fruit by selection, the study of soils and their relations to the growth of fruit trees, and the marketing investigations are now well in hand. This department has also attempted successfully, for the first time in the history of Indian fruits, the problem of export of Indian fruit to the European markets. It is surprising to note that in India the majority of the provinces have not as yet established even a fruit farm where such researches can be carried out. But it was recently announced that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research had taken the initiative in this direction and had agreed to finance some of the provinces in establishing their fruit farms. Even at present, almost every branch

of the Indian fruit industry remains still to be explored fully and science presents a wide field for active research.

An effort is also being made in Bengal for better fruit culture and to produce varieties of fruits. With this end in view the Imperial Agricultural Research Council has selected a big plot of land in Krishnagar for research work in this connection. It is stated that Bengal lags far behind other provinces in this respect and that no effort has yet been made to improve the quality of fruit suitable for the alluvial soil of this province particularly mangoes, leechis and guavas. The work will be carried on by the Economic Botanist of Bengal. He will, however, be assisted by two other officers from Bombay with an agricultural college. The main purpose of the research is to improve the strain of the common fruit indigenous to the province with special adaptability to its soil and climate. Krishnagar has been selected for the quality of its soil and climate for fruit cultivation, besides, it will be easily accessible to fruit districts, namely, Murshidabad and Malda.

The entire charge for this research will be borne by the Imperial Agricultural Research Council and is stated to be an experimental measure for five years after which sufficient data will be available to educate the cultivators to take to fruit culture as a new avenue for surplus land at their disposal.

## EDUCATIONAL REORGANISATION

Writing under the caption "Need for Educational Reorganisation" in the pages of *Educational India* Mr. K. G. Warty, M. A. B. T., draws pointed attention to the enormous waste of energy and money under our present educational system.

In the first place [he says] we notice that the policy of devolution of management to local bodies has been carried too far in primary education, "beyond any system of devolution". Even in England, the measure of central control is greater than in India. In India large sums were voted for primary as well as secondary education, over which the Ministers and the Legislature had scarcely any control. Nothing could be less in accordance with the democratic principles, says Sir Philip Hartog.

Secondly more time than is necessary is wasted in imparting education to the pupils. In Bombay we find that a pupil requires not less than twelve years of instruction to reach the Matriculation stage. The Hesketh Committee appointed by the Bombay Government have clearly shown that it is possible to complete this course in ten years, as is done in some other provinces. There is lot of duplication of studies throughout the system. It is advisable to have a continuous course of primary education for seven years, English being taught as an optional subject in the higher primary stage. The secondary education should have a four years' course preparing for the Matriculation of the University. There should be a public examination at the end of the primary stage, and those who pass that examination only should be allowed to continue their course in secondary schools. The Matriculation should be the school leaving as well as the Entrance examination. Separate schools with separate courses in industrial and technical education should be started and Universities should award diplomas at the end of each such course. The diplomas that are at present awarded by the Government should all be incorporated as University diplomas to be taken after the Matriculation, which every student who wishes to prosecute his studies in any branch of life should pass. It is time that the Government and the Universities co-operate in this matter of reorganisation and adjustment. The Matriculation standard should immediately be raised and the University course may be of three years' duration. If measures are adopted somewhat on the lines suggested above, it should be possible for the Government to save a huge amount for spending it on the spread of education among the people of this country. Everything is possible if there is a will behind it.

## THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL.

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, K.C.I.E., in his article on the above subject in the *Hindustan Review* for June, opines that the reform proposals have stiffened and worsened from the view-point of Indian interest at each successive stage of their evolution.

The White Paper [says he] contained proposals which went back on the repeated assurances of British statesmen, the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report was still more reactionary; the India Bill went further in the wrong direction, and now the House of Commons has worsened it in respect of a number of vital points. . . .

Take, for instance, the provisions with regard to the Services, recruitment and conditions of service, which are put indefinitely in the hands of the Secretary of State. Even posting, promotion or censure are not to be in the hands of Ministers, who must obtain concurrence of the Governor or Governor-General, as the case may be, and the Governor-General will for the purpose be under the direct orders of the Secretary of the State. Even the Governor-General is not to be trusted in the matter of recruitment and conditions of service. The House of Commons has gone still further in substituting for the Orders in Council, as provided in the Bill, the express approval of Parliament, in respect of any future alteration of service conditions. Unduly liberal privileges of retirement on proportionate pensions are conceded. The wholesome rule that has obtained for 150 years, excluding the I. C. S. from Chief Justiceship, has been abolished, and this change has been made in spite of the united voice against it in India, both of Indians and Europeans. In order to placate the Services they have not hesitated even to strike at the root of great confidence and prestige the High Courts have enjoyed in the public mind.

Look next at the safeguards about commercial discrimination. The powers at present enjoyed by the Indian Legislatures are taken away. Hereafter, any British Company, at present incorporated in England or hereafter to be incorporated, shall be deemed to have fulfilled any condition that the Indian Legislature may lay down with regard to capital, personnel of the Directors, etc. The British shipping companies cannot be touched and even if the Governor-General approves of any enactment designed to secure the coastal shipping trade to Indian nationals—that cannot be done. The latest move with regard to British professional men makes the purpose in this direction too patent.

They have done away with direct elections to the Assembly, the country has been enjoying for the last fourteen years, and in doing so they have unceremoniously cast aside the deliberate advice of the Government of India presided over by the present Viceroy, a man who, with the long experience of sixteen years' service in India, knows Indian conditions infinitely better than some of the British politicians dealing with this matter and whose vision is warped by party considerations.

The net result is that what with the stringent safeguards and other reactionary provisions the so-called responsible government does not possess much responsibility. The Bill betrays utter distrust of the Indians and it is clear that when it will emerge from Parliament it will be entirely out of tune with their political aspirations. One of the results will be that with India disgruntled there will be a strong *swadeshi* movement and British trade will dwindle. Britain cannot keep both political power and trade. Political power she cannot keep for ever, but her present policy may make her lose both trade and political power.

Perhaps, all this is a cry in the wilderness. The authorities in England have not the least intention of respecting Indian opinion, and they are determined to impose on India a constitution which have evoked a strong and universal disapprobation. The new constitution will, therefore, come into operation under the most unfavourable conditions. The 1921 constitution had its strong and sincere supporters

in India : the present constitution has none. Worked it must be, and it will be worked by all parties, but the temptation will be irresistible to so work it as to expose its shortcomings and deficiencies and to create situations which may force the hands of the British people to enact another constitution acceptable to the people of India.

Added to this grave handicap with which the new constitution by its demerits will start is the situation created by the Indian authorities. The Congress, having realised the futility of its methods of direct action, adopted the constitutional and Parliamentary mentality and came into the legislature. The Viceroy and the Home Member acted wisely in welcoming them, but later counsels of the Government of India have completely swept aside the earlier view and the Government has launched on a campaign of rubbing the Congress in the wrong way. In fact, the Government has done everything it can to make the Congress doubt whether their changed attitude would lead to any fruitful result and has strengthened the hands of the Socialists in condemning that policy. So far as one can observe, the Congress leaders in the Assembly behaved with considerable restraint and Parliamentary decorum. They were, however, met by bitter attacks and abuse in some instances. And at the end of the last session, the Finance Member, Sir James Grigg, enunciated the attitude of the Government which showed an utter lack of political wisdom. He in effect said that because Congress tactics, according to him, were those of obstruction, the Government will adopt the same attitude and would not go to the maximum extent it could to meet the Opposition, which it would have done, had there been another kind of Opposition. How unfair this attitude was even to the non-Congress groups is apparent, for no vote was carried in the Assembly without the support of Independents or Muslims or Europeans. The attitude of Government has had the inevitable result of driving into the Congress lobby even those who would otherwise have stood by the side of Government. I must say that the Government is ill-advised and unfortunately led.

### CHILDREN AND THE CINEMA

The *Roy's Weekly* publishes in one of its recent issues some interesting comments from the pen of its Geneva Correspondent on the influence of the cinema on the physical, mental, psychological and moral development of growing children, based on the observations of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations on the subject.

The presence of children in picture theatres [ writes the correspondent ] necessitates the fulfilment of the following desiderata : proper ventilation, adequate distance between the children and the screen to prevent eye-strain, and sufficient diffused lighting in the hall to ensure that the pictures thrown on the screen shall not dazzle. But even the most perfect equipment of the theatre itself cannot prevent certain nervous reactions which may be mimical to health : late hours cause fatigue, often followed by loss of appetite, on the morrow ; over-excitement leads to disturbed sleep ; disregard of normal bedtime may produce insomnia.

In the case of special performances for children there is also the danger of infection ; this danger is particularly great when large numbers of children are gathered together....

From the standpoint of the mental development of children the educational cinema is double-edged weapon. The value of the illustration or repetition by cinematography of some previous lesson is fully recognised by all who remember the dryness of theoretical teaching and the dulness of black board. Nevertheless, an imprudent use of the cinema may lead to superficiality of knowledge, lack of concentration and even fatigue with consequent inattention. Teaching by films is in fact a method which teachers must learn to handle.

The intellectual development of children is affected by all entertainments they attend. Films which have no educational aims react on the mental structure

gradually, just as drops of water finally wear away a hole in the rock ; the slightest deviations from logic, the least distortions of the truth, hardly perceptible exaggerations in the strict sequence of events, may by repetition cause irreparable harm. They may also undermine the child's artistic and literary feeling and culture.....

Films may be of great value in disseminating elementary knowledge in rural districts which have never been able to enjoy the entertainments now ousted by the cinema in the towns. But if country children, whose intelligence and feelings may be moulded all the more readily in that they are practically virgin soil, are to be educated by these methods, every care must be taken to see that the pictures which will be impressed on their minds are not such as will warp their judgement or basic concepts. The danger is heightened by the fact that these children live in surroundings which are less able to provide the necessary antidotes

The moral and psychological influence of the cinema on children and young people is immense for various reasons, among them the following : the absolutely "passive" condition of the spectator, who merely sits and watches ; the simplification of ideas owing to the elimination of all the constructive or deductive mental effort entailed by the drama or by reading ; the violence of the impression produced by objective scenes presented to the spectator without any call whatsoever on his imagination ; the rapid succession of events and the complete absence of intervals between them, during which excitement has time to die down and reason regains its hold ; the pleasure children experience in seeing people give way to instincts which they have been taught to suppress, when the actors do things which the child's conscience or the law itself forbids him to do, or when he witnesses adventures of which he would love to be the hero but into which he has not the courage or hardihood to plunge

As cinemas contain the seeds of children's ruination as much as of their elevation, particularly from the mental and moral point of view, should the development of children's personality be left to chance ? How can the defects be remedied ? By some form of censorship ? By special performances for children and young people ? By the production of special films ? By restricting the attendance of children at cinemas ? These are serious problems which call for very careful consideration.

There can be no question that children are to be protected from the demoralising cinema.

But measures of protection are not enough ; we must not only see that the film, like all other scientific inventions, does not harm, we must also ensure that it actually "serves" ; that it becomes an instrument of harmonious development and health recreation, and a vehicle for the transmission of all such ideas as may guide the rising generation to an ideal of broad-minded understanding, agreement and concord.

### RIVER PHYSICS LABORATORY FOR BENGAL.

In his article "Bengal Rivers and their Training" appearing in a recent issue of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* Mr. N. K. Basu, M. Sc., PH. D., of the Irrigation Research Institute, Punjab, makes a strong plea for the establishment of a River Physics Laboratory for Bengal, for carrying out model experiments on all schemes relating to the control and training of the river system of the province and giving its engineering staff a proper training. There are number of hydraulic laboratories in Europe and America (e. g. Freeman laboratories in America, laboratories at Karlsruhe, Gottingen, Charlottenburg, Manchester, etc.) which are doing valuable work in aid of river construction engineers, bridge engineers, harbour

authorities and others. The problems of the Bengal rivers are, according to informed opinion, somewhat different from and more difficult than those of the great rivers elsewhere and they must be tackled in right earnest 'not only with the object of minimising the suffering due to ephemeral phenomena like catastrophic floods and erosions, but also to combat the effects of long period phenomena like change of river courses and consequential sanitary and economic dislocations.' Mr. Basu holds that that every scheme connected with the rivers must be tested before it is put into operation by means of laboratory models in a River Physics Laboratory, for that is the way of saving lacs and lacs of rupees now wasted in futile experiments.

It is a hopeful sign that 'not only private contractors but Government departments in India are getting into the habit of seeking information from model experiments before they venture on to the actual constructional works'. This is particularly noticeable in the Punjab, Bombay and Sind in recent years where researches on models are being carried on more or less systematically. The Punjab leads the way in this. Bengal that requires laboratory experiments more than any other province awfully lags behind.

Mr. Basu attributes the deplorable condition of Bengal's rivers and waterways and along with it of drainage, health and productivity of lands of the province to lack of conscious control of its rivers, or even worse still, to misdirected control of the same. The faulty planning of railways, leading to the construction of high embankments, is very much responsible for this state of things. Mr. Basu thus formulates the outlines of his scheme :

Bengal rivers are a connected system. A branch of it cannot be touched without affecting others. It is well known that when one of the numerous channels of this system has been dredged and kept open for steamer traffic, a neighbouring channel has silted up making it impassable even for a country boat. This problem must be attacked from an all-Bengal point of view if we want to achieve any success. "What is necessary is to examine the Bengal river-system as a whole, first by a thorough surveying and levelling for a number of years and to collect old hydraulic data of these rivers if available. Meanwhile a scheme for a river training laboratory can be prepared, in some of the foremost laboratories of Europe and America and a laboratory started near about Calcutta where water supply can be arranged regularly, where the required university atmosphere can be obtained and the accumulated experience of irrigation engineers can be made use of. If Government irrigation department takes up the work of surveying and levelling, the laboratory scheme can be started with a capital expenditure of two to three lakhs of rupees and a recurring expense of about fifty to seventy-five thousand rupees. This scheme can develop as its activities increase till a commission very much similar to the Danubian Commission grows up that will embrace within its ambit all the irrigation projects that take their water from the Ganges and her tributaries." This commission will see that every scheme must first be submitted to a thorough laboratory test before it is allowed to be put into actual practice, and for this purpose as well as for the purpose of giving the engineering staff a thorough knowledge of the problem they are expected to handle, a river physics laboratory should be established before any river training project can be undertaken.

Bengal Government has recently introduced a Bill in the Council for the rural development of Bengal by which it will be able to levy a cess on the zemindars whose lands will benefit by any river training scheme. This Development Board can be the

all-Bengal organisation under whose aegis this revitalising work of Bengal re-organisation can progress and if the member-in-charge can bring this Board into existence with adequate financial backing and make it function properly, he will render as great a service to Bengal and for the matter of that to the whole of India, as Mussolini has done to Italy by draining and reclaiming the marshy lands round about Rome, a stretch of very unhealthy malaria-ridden piece of country that had defied all the efforts of the great Roman Emperors of old to reclaim.

### CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING.

In the June issue of the *Financial Times* Mr. B. R. Biswas, M.A., urges the Government of Bengal to establish a permanent Agricultural Board on the same lines as the Federal Farm Board of U.S.A., making co-operative marketing its special charge and see that the various departments follow a concerted and well-co-ordinated policy for rural development. No doubt the authorities in Bengal and some other provinces have, following the Central Government, taken up the question of agricultural marketing and appointed marketing officers and promised marketing surveys, but, asks Mr. Biswas, where is the guarantee, in view of the present economic organisation of the country, that the agricultural producers will secure a proportionate benefit from the new marketing policy? The failure and consequent closing down of the Co-operative Jute Sale Societies in 1930 cannot be made a case for the failure of the co-operative principle and must not stand in the way of Government pursuing a bold policy based on past experience, in regard to co-operative marketing. Says Mr. Biswas :

Co-operative marketing is particularly suited to a country of small holdings and it is more necessary in a country of small holders than it is where farms are large. The smaller a consignment for sale, the more hands does it have to pass through before it meets the export trader or the large wholesale merchant and the more is the number of middlemen involved in the business. The greater, therefore, is the loss suffered by the ryot. Then again one of the main reasons of the failure of rural credit policy in India is to be found in the inability of the ryot to provide good security against cheap credits. It is only co-operative marketing that will enable the produce of the country to be used as security for the provision of cheap credits in the rural areas. It is indeed ordinary common sense to say that unless the ryot can make the loan to him productive by realising better prices for his products, any state policy of agricultural credit is bound to prove futile. It is therefore no wonder to find that the overdues in the rural credit societies of Bengal during 1932-33 had mounted upto Rs. 346.59 lakhs or 80.9 per cent of the total. Yet the co-operative department of the Government of Bengal assure us that the movement they represent is inherently strong and sound and that there is no cause for alarm in the near future. As a matter of fact it is certainly high time for them to realise that a movement that does not show any clear line of advance for the last two decades and which can at best claim an extremely one-sided and disproportionate growth of credit co-operation, is anything but sound and must develop along marketing lines if it is to be of real utility to the rural population.

There were indeed mistakes in the past, but that is no reason why the Government should lack boldness and imagination and refrain from pursuing a vigorous and constructive agricultural policy. It has been estimated that whereas the average yearly value of total marketable crops in Bengal for the decade 1920-30 amounted to Rs. 72.415 crores, the total value of marketable crops for 1930-31 was Rs. 52.05 crores and that for 1931-32 Rs. 41.59 crores and for 1932-33 the amount was only Rs. 32.71 crores. This gives us a fair idea of the nature of the agricultural depression we are in and the stalemate that has necessarily occurred. In years of plenty we could afford the expensive services of middlemen; can we afford them now? The Government had indeed wasted a number of valuable years during which they could easily build up a net-work of co-operative marketing societies by enunciating a constructive policy and following it up energetically.

# The Sitapur District Association

BY A. SYED FATEH SHAH, BAR-AT-LAW,  
*Hony. Secretary, Sitapur District Association.*

[The Sitapur District Association has been recently started under the aegis of the National Agriculturist Party of Oudh. Mr. Fateh Shah, the honorary Secretary, has addressed to us the following communication containing an excellent plea for support to the association and an outline of its plan of action. The establishment of harmonious relations between landlords and tenants, rural reconstruction and the vesting of political power in the stable elements of the society are found to be the primary objects of the association and as such constitute our apology for publishing the communication in extenso—Editor]

The present situation in the country requires that all constitutional institutions that are working here for political evolution must carry on their activities with renewed vigour and zeal. The result of the last Assembly election should open the eyes of those who really feel interested in the welfare of their motherland. If things are allowed to take their present course, the entire political power is sure to slip into the hands of those who have repeatedly declared their callous disregard for the interest of land-owning classes in particular and others who have some stake in the country in general. Therefore it is high time for the public in general and landlords in particular to face the realities of the situation and devise ways and means to counteract the injudicious and revolutionary activities of the co-called extreme political leaders. The time for talk and discussions is over. It is high time for the translation of professions and opinions into actions. To achieve this object, it is incumbent on all political bodies working on constitutional line to co-operate whole-heartedly and devise a definite, practical programme for their future action. It is rather difficult to chalk out an exhaustive programme but I venture to suggest some lines of action which are capable of development in accordance with the requirements of time.

The first and foremost aim should be to capture the legislatures and local bodies. To this end, it is highly essential to take the voters (tenants) who form the bulk of the electorate, in one's own fold. The task does not appear to be difficult for the landlords if they really rise to the occasion and make slight sacrifices for their future existence and stability of their order.

It is clear that the very existence of the landlords is at present in jeopardy. Therefore, it is their supreme, religious duty to ward off this danger. There is no doubt that the landlords are sure to enlist the sympathy and support of the Government in their efforts to work for the constitutional advance of their country, but they should not look up much for help in that direction. The Taluqdars and Zemindars should start with a genuine determination to fight their political battle with honesty of purpose on the strength of their own resources. This would require organisation, and organisation can easily be achieved under the existing constitutional political institutions, such as the National Agriculturist Party of Oudh and its branches. The District Association of Sitapur is a branch of the National Agriculturist Party of Oudh with its sub-committees and branches spread all over the District, and regard being had to the zeal and energy of the members, particularly the President Rai Bahadur Seth Maheswar Dayal, Taluqdar of Kotra Estate, it can be safely said that this institution can easily be turned into a real living force for the political fight. There is no doubt that this political fight needs sinews of war which can be supplied by the generosity of its patrons and sympathisers.

Besides this, it is desirable that every member of the District Association should at least contribute -/- per year toward the fund. This nominal payment will infuse some real interest in the members towards this institution.

The gradual multiplication of members will set this District Association on a sound financial footing in course of time, but to meet the immediate financial needs, deputations, consisting of the members of the District Association, should wait on the leading Taluqdars of the district for donations. With useful aims and objects this institution is sure to stir up the minds of the leading Taluqdars and move them to action. Therefore sufficient funds can be collected to start the work in an earnest manner.

The propaganda work of the District Association should at present be of two-fold nature, first, political and second, relating to rural reconstruction.

Both the activities require efficient and whole-time workers. There is no doubt that some of the members of the District Association have displayed a very keen and active interest in connection with the propaganda work, out of love for their country, and I am sure they will continue do the same, but I am afraid it will be too much to ask them to devote their whole time to this work. Therefore, it is suggested that for the present at least one paid worker should be engaged for each sub-committee as an intinerant preacher under the direct supervision of that sub-committee who will be required to submit a fortnightly report to the Central Committee for information. The political side of the propaganda should first be, to explain the utility of the District Association, thereby inducing the masses to join the Association in large numbers and secondly, the workers and

the members should try to establish cordial relations between zamindars and tenants by explaining to them that these two institutions are interdependent and the salvation of both lies in co-operation and mutual good will. The genuine grievances of the tenants should be removed through the sub-committees by the best persuasive methods. The zamindars should be influenced to make legitimate concessions in favour of their tenants. The help of the local bodies and co-operative societies should be taken to relieve the tenants in their difficulties. These small concessions and favours to the tenants will go a long way off with them, and in the end will prove more effective than holding meetings and political discussions. The workers and members of the association should be well up in explaining the ulterior motives of the revolutionary movement which means a total disruption of the present society which is based on time-honoured customs and conventions, well suited to the moral and material welfare of the country and the spiritual uplift of the community at large. The tenants should be clearly made to understand the hollowness and futility of the promises of the extreme political section which they are ever ready to make, but never mean to and are not in a position to fulfil.

The District Association should also distribute healthy literature according to the requirements of the day and it is highly essential for the purpose of propaganda that the association should have its own newspaper under the editorship of an enthusiastic member. The District Board and Municipal Board should be persuaded to publish in this paper their proceedings which, under the rules, they are bound to publish. The District authorities should be requested to help this paper by sending court notices for publication. Thus, the association will have very little to spend in starting its own paper.

The rural reconstruction should form a component part of the propaganda. It cannot be completely done at once, but it should be carried on with persistent honesty of purpose. In my opinion, it has two important aspects--health and farming, and both are interdependent. The Government is doing a lot in this connection, and will readily lend its co-operation to this institution if the association prove its practical usefulness in its endeavours. Special attention should be directed to this part of the propaganda work because it will enhance the position of the District Association in the eyes of the general public and the Government, and secondly, its activities will surely catch the imagination of the zamindars and tenants and will convince them that the association is seriously out to help and assist, I therefore, propose that the workers of the District Association, besides making simple speeches on sanitation in general and vaccination and control of malaria in particular, should distribute simple medicines such as quinine, potassium permanganate, etc. The really needy tenants should also be provided with small comforts such as ordinary blankets and clothes. The District Association would be able in due course of time, if not at present, to set apart a modest sum for this charitable object. There will be no lack of funds if the institution proves its utility.

The local bodies could well be persuaded to make use of the agency of the District Association for charitable purposes. There will be no reason to refuse, as it will save them the cost of the dispensing of charities, and will pay the District Association in establishing its control over the tenants. The main object of the workers and members of the District Association should be to make themselves useful to the tenants in every way.

As regards farming, the tenants would be advised to use better seeds, particularly for wheat and sugarcane. The zemindars should be persuaded to use good seeds in their *sir* land. This will naturally influence the tenants to use good seeds. The workers should explain to the tenants the best way of ploughing and keeping their pits for night soil and rubbish etc., at proper places and should be provided with small handbooks in Urdu and Hindi dealing with these subjects for reference' sake, because it is difficult to get an all-knowing worker. In the end it is suggested that the time requires a total change in the angle of vision of the zemindars towards their tenants. The economic depression is seriously telling on the scanty resources of the tenants. The extreme political section knowing this state of the situation are out to make capital out of it, by playing on the tender feelings of the hard-hit tenants. If the zemindars still remain sitting on the fence without moving their little finger against the agitators and fail to look to their own interest which lies in the hands of their tenants whom they can easily take into their fold by making slight concessions to them, their future is doomed.

It is high time for the zemindars to give up their lethargy and prove the usefulness of their order to the public and the Government as their forefathers did and, come back to their own again.

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# The Italo-Abyssinian Wrangle

BY POLITICUS.

THE Italo-Abyssinian dispute, whose day-to-day developments are causing grave anxiety to European powers, particularly to those that are very much interested in territorial spoils in Africa, arose, if we leave aside extraneous circumstances which might have provoked it, out of a simple cause, viz., a desire on the part of overpopulated Italy to find new homes for her children in the Abyssinian highlands. In Africa, south of Abyssinia, from the Transvaal to Kenya Colony, the Dutch and the English have been seizing upon the highlands for a hundred years past and the French and Germans were also not slow to occupy territories in Africa for purposes of colonization and trade.

As there exists nothing to prevent a powerful nation from acquiring and constantly extending territories in the vast region of the great African continent which is practically unclaimed and for the most part inhabited by wild aboriginal tribes, Italy, last in the race for new territorial acquisitions, seems to have made up her mind to issue forth from her not very profitable colonies of Eritrea and Somaliland lying along the torrid coasts of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and occupy the highlands in Abyssinia.

In this, it is needless to add, she is following too closely the example set by the other imperialist powers of Europe. Abyssinia, though not a great country, has an army provided with the latest equipments of war and her people are a brave and fighting one. But she is unwilling to go to war with Italy and wants amicable settlement of the dispute.

Accordingly under the terms of the Italo-Abyssinian Treaty of 1898 a Conciliation Commission was appointed to go into the question and bring about a peaceful settlement.

The Commission has, however, ceased functioning owing to the withdrawal of the Italian members from the Commission as a protest against a certain statement of an Abyssinian spokesman.

The break-down of the Commission and the failure of any agreed settlement of the territorial dispute has created a grave crisis which, if not timely averted by a strong action of the League of Nations, may involve Italy and Abyssinia in a great war.

Unfortunately except moral sanction the League has as yet no effective means of enforcing its decision upon its recalcitrant members. Italy

is a member of the League and knows quite well that powerful members can always defy with impunity the League's authority, and finds nothing unusual or wrong in assuming the same stiff attitude as both Germany and Japan adopted when they found that submission to League's intervention or arbitration affected their vital interests and refused to have anything to do with the League. If the League is unable to prevent the impending war between Italy and Abyssinia, the responsibility of stopping Italian aggressiveness must naturally fall on the individual members of the League. A disquieting feature of the League is that it is practically a body of imperialist powers and its members naturally fight shy of "strong" action against an imperialist power.

England is unwilling on her own account to resort to economic sanctions against Italy, such as closing the Suez Canal to Italian ships thereby closing her only means of communication. The offer of Britain to give Abyssinia a portion of British Somaliland for an access to the sea and thereby facilitate Abyssinia's agreeing to make territorial and economic concessions to Italy, springs from a desire to keep peace and tranquillity in Africa. France wants settlement through direct negotiation and is unwilling to take any action against Italy. U. S. A. does not seem inclined to poke her nose in matters in which she does not feel much interested.

Under such circumstances Abyssinia has become an easy victim to Italian Imperialism much in the same way as China was and is to Imperial Japan.

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## Notes \* News \* Comments

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### Sir Frederick Sykes on India's needs

Sir Frederick Sykes, ex-Governor of Bombay, has recently contributed an article to the *Daily Telegraph* to discuss India's needs at the present moment and the policy which the British Government need follow for their fulfilment. Sir Frederick is a politician gifted with a rare vision. He is endowed with a genuine sympathy for the Indian people which is indispensable for a correct apprehension of their position. The latter part of his Governorship he signalised by an active propaganda in favour of the reconstruction of village life, and the people of the province, of which he was in charge, will enshrine his memory, above everything else, for the pains that he took to infuse into the minds of officials and non-officials alike a spirit of service to village people and the idea that India's regeneration lay in the regeneration of her villages. It is gratifying to note that he continues to direct his thoughts to the complex problems of Indian life so far, at least, as the economic side is concerned, and is as anxious as ever to make his contribution to their solution. Says Sir Frederick :

"The real task that confronts us in India is economic and social reconstruction, which must now be taken in hand . . . . Our old policy of non-interference with the customs and habits of the people must be modified. We must start with the social and economic life of the village, wage a campaign against the inefficiency of rural life, particularly against wasteful and uneconomic methods of agriculture and effect gradual elimination of undersized useless cattle and improvement of insanitary conditions. Villages must be cleared of cactus and other vermin-harbouring growths, water supply improved and stagnant pools drained or treated. Magic lantern lectures, cinemas, gramophone and broadcasting should be developed for mass education, as all these help to raise the standard of living".

Referring to trade, Sir Frederick Sykes urges the strengthening of commercial facilities between India and other members of the Empire against external competition, for example, on the lines of the Central Cotton Committee. There should be an organised drive for improved marketing, in which the Provincial and the Central Governments must co-operate and also for the establishment of marketing officers and staff to deal with staple crops, animal husbandry and dairy farming. The whole field should be systematically surveyed. Working together on a common platform on these lines may lead to a solution which is a most difficult task in the evolution of national unity in India.

The above constitutes Sir Frederick's programme which, we are sure, will be found to contain much that will be held satisfactory by all shades of informed opinion in India. But would the Indian Government proceed to implement it for whatever it is worth with determination and thoroughness ?

### **Central Advisory Board on Education**

The revival of the Central Advisory Board on Education is now an accomplished fact. The Board, it may be recalled, was constituted in 1921 and abolished in 1928, following the recommendation of the Inchape Committee. The Hartog Committee on education recommended its revival on the ground, among others, that it may serve as an effective agency for co-ordination of the educational experience of the different provinces.

The following is a press summary of the final orders of the Government of India on the constitution and functions of the newly revived board :

The board will consist of the Member in charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands (chairman), the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India; six nominees of the Government of India, of whom one at least shall be a women, one member nominated by the Council of State; two members nominated by the Legislative Assembly; three members nominated by the Inter-University Board; and a representative of each local Government, either the Minister in charge of Education (or his deputy), or the Director of Public Instruction (or his deputy). The Secretary of the Board will be appointed by the Government of India.

The recommendation of the Board will be purely of an advisory nature and will not be binding on provincial Governments and authorities. The Board will advise on any educational question which may be referred to it by the Government of India or by a local Government and will call for information and advice regarding educational developments of special interest or value to India.

The Board will be at liberty to form standing and *ad hoc* committees, and will have power of appointing to those committees persons who are not members of the the Board but possess special knowledge. Such committees will include at least two members of the Board. Generally, the membership will not exceed five.

The Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, assisted by the secretary of the Board will prepare the agenda and the explanatory memoranda of the Board.

The composition of the Board will be announced shortly and the first meeting is expected to be held in October.

Talks are also in the air about the reconstitution of Bureau of the Education which might devote itself to the task of collection of statistical information relating to education in India and it is quite possible that the Bureau will be revived before long. We are not on principle opposed to the creation of new agencies or departments which have for their object the placing of the work of educational reconstruction on a better footing or to the division of functions where such division is calculated to render efficient and effective service. What we apprehend is that the creation of the Advisory Board such as is now proposed might complicate matters and stand in the way of quick decision and prompt despatch of business, both of which are conspicuous by their absence here as in other spheres of governmental activity. Do the Government seriously lack agencies or sources through which they may get information and advice on educational matters? Is there not the Inter-Universities Board to co-ordinate the educational experience of the different provinces? They ought, we think, to have seen their way to develop its activities before they could think of reconstituting the Central Advisory Board. The creation

of the Board on the eve of the introduction of provincial autonomy may not be without a special significance of its own, but it is to be deplored that the Government should be so very anxious for centralised control when so much remains to be done in the provincial sphere. What we want to emphasise is that even in the event of the materialisation of provincial autonomy, decentralisation, and not centralisation, should be the keynote of Government's educational policy in the best interests of education itself.

### **Indian Architecture**

The indisputable claims of Indian architecture are at last going to be recognised in a proposal to establish shortly a school of Indian architecture in Calcutta with the object of saving 'the future civic edifices from the present glaring anomaly of foreign or mixed and *motifs* reviving in some measure some of India's glories'. The draft scheme provides for two courses—one in architecture and the other in draftmanship, divided into three stages—primary, secondary and advanced, and covering a period of three years. The probable estimate of expenditure for the institution will be Rs. 1,00,000. The school is expected to design and supervise every variety of architectural construction in Indian styles. It will direct the planning and laying out of towns and villages and hopes to be self-supporting in the course of a few years when it expects to expand its activities by opening up new departments comprising wood-craft, metal industry, stone work and other branches of architecture.

The proposal, it is reported, has been enthusiastically received by admirers of Indian architecture all over the world. The Secretary of State, their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Governor of Bengal and many prominent Indians have sent messages of sympathy and encouragement for the successful inauguration of the scheme. A number of Indian Princes have consented to be patrons of the institution. The Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation has in a recent meeting, welcomed it as being essential for the development of Indian culture and promised to co-operate with it as best as he could. All this indicates that it will begin work under the most favourable of auspices.

### **Revision of Scale of Remissions urged in U. P.**

By a resolution moved the other day in the U. P. Legislative Council, Nawab Jamshed Ali Khan drew the attention of the Government to the need of revising the scale of remissions of rent in the light of the recent changes in the prices of agricultural produce. He pointed out that remissions should be made on a certain principle, and having once decided on and giving effect to one, the Government should stick to the same. The principle was first based on prices which have now risen—to 25 per cent over the prices current in 1930, as one member pointed out during the debate—and rents should be increased in proportion to the rise in the prices. It was made abundantly clear in the course of the discussion that

the object of the resolution was to secure an equitable distribution of rent and revenue and to remove particularly the hardships of those zemindars who had been lenient to their tenants.

Another argument that was urged in support of the resolution was that it was necessary to make some change in the present rate of rents if for no other purpose than to make a gesture to the tenants that the new rate of rents was not permanent for all time.

Mr. Clay, the Finance Member, speaking on behalf of the Government said that he appreciated the feelings behind the last mentioned point and they would be given due weight to by the Government when shortly they would consider the whole question of rent and revenue remissions. He quoted figures to show that, making allowances for special circumstances, it could not be said that there was a definite upward tendency in prices and urged the supporters of the resolution to wait till they could be certain that there was a definite rise in prices which had come to stay. As for the resolution which was passed *nem con* with a request that a committee be appointed to go into the question of rents and water rates, the Finance Member assured the House that the Government would consider the suggestion.

### **Land Revenue Administration in Bihar in 1933-34.**

The report on the Land Revenue Administration in Bihar and Orissa in 1933-34 shows a marked divergence between the percentages of collection to current demands of permanently settled and temporarily settled estates and between those of estates held by private proprietors and those directly by Government. In this respect the state of things in that province is quite analogous to what obtains in other provinces whose land systems are composed of the same three kinds of estates as in Bihar. Of the current demand of Rs. 1,06,90,045, Rs. 1,03,58,000 or 96.89 per cent was collected ; and but for the very low percentage (80.23) of collection in Purnea District in Bhagalpur Division, reported to be due to economic depression, the percentage of the whole province would have approximated very closely to the standard fixed (99 per cent). In the temporarily settled estates 92.57 per cent on the current demand of Rs. 35,17,939 i. e. Rs 32,56,588 was collected, and in estates under the direct management of the Government 61.83 per cent on the current demand of Rs. 23,03,452. The percentages of total demand to total collections were 96.99, 91.09 and 66.26 respectively in the three cases. Including arrears the total demand amounted to Rs. 1,78,83,390 and the total collection Rs. 1,61,76,693 ; the percentage of total collection fell from 92.15 to 90.45. Remissions to the extent of Rs. 68,603 were granted and these were allowed on the ground of diluvion or deterioration of soil in estates under direct management in Shahabad, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Puri and Patna and in the temporarily settled estates in Monghyr and Puri.

Further deterioration in the economic position of the holders of estates was reflected in the increase in the number of defaults in payment

of land revenue from 14,528 in 1932-33 to 16,975 in the year under review, the total amount of the arrear dues (for which sales were held) increasing from Rs 28,243 (together with Rs. 32,472 process fees) to Rs. 69,030 (together Rs. 2,726 process fees). But the number of total sales fell from 319 to 298. In support of his contention that the sale law was administered with leniency and discretion, the author of the report states that sales were not held for arrears of the January kist 1934 till after the close of the year in the earthquake affected districts, and penalties and process fees were remitted in the three Orissa districts where crops had been extensively damaged by high floods.

### **Religious Instruction in Assam Jails**

The report on the administration of Assam Jails for 1934 showed a noticeable improvement in more than one direction. Firstly, there was not only decrease in the number of admissions of convicted adult prisoners—male and female—during the year but also a decrease in the number of juvenile prisoners admitted—11 prisoners were under 16 as against 27 in the previous year. Secondly, the report shows an improvement in health and mortality among the prisoners. The number of deaths fell from 62 to 58 and the death rate was the lowest on record except in 1917. The third noticeable feature in the report was the decrease in the number of offences against Jail discipline, and the consequent decrease of minor punishments by subordinate superintendents.

Extra remission for special services and for continuous good conduct showed an appreciable increase. But the most striking feature that characterised the Jail administration in Assam (1934) was the recognition of the fundamental fact that the main object of putting prisoners in jail is to correct and reform them by diverting their energy and attention from evil courses along healthy moral lines. Religious instructors were appointed and books were provided for jail libraries. Paid teachers for the education of convicts were employed in three jails as an experimental measure to give elementary instruction. Primary education was also given to adolescent prisoners in other jails. Selected prisoners were trained in ambulance and first aid.

There is much in this report which other provinces may try to follow with advantage.

### **Revenue Remissions in Sind**

In view of the low prices of agricultural products compared with those prevailing at the time of the last settlement, the Government have sanctioned special remission in non-barrage areas of certain taluks in Upper Sind, Frontier, Hyderabad, Larkana, Sukkur, Nawab Shah, Karachi and Dadu for rabi 1934-35.

The remission varies from 12½ per cent to 25 per cent, the crops, in respect of which the remissions have been sanctioned, being wheat, grape-seed, gram, matar, jambho and mustard.

### **Second Chamber for Assam**

One more province is added to the list of provinces which will function with two chambers under the reformed constitution. Sir Samuel Hoare did almost a parting act of grace in deciding in favour of a second chamber for Assam. It is supposed that he did so on the representation of the local Government and it is quite well that he changed his opinion at last. Our whole-hearted congratulation goes to Assam.

### **Rural Development Board for Madras**

The Raja of Bobbili, it is understood, has outlined a scheme for the establishment of a Rural Development Board, whose main object will be to co-ordinate the efforts of the Agriculture, Co-operative and Industries Departments in particular, and see that the allotments provided by the Government for rural uplift are usefully spent. The Board is to consist of the Heads of Departments. The scheme has experience and wisdom behind it and, if it materialise, will stop overlapping of departmental activities and effect economy.

### **Bengal Detenus**

To us the question whether the policy of relaxation of restrictions on detenus is new or old is comparatively unimportant. It is enough that a large number of the detenus were sent to village and home domicile from camps during the past year and that a certain number of them were placed early this year under the supervision of village committees in the Chittagong district and certain others have been released on the execution of money bonds and payment of cash security. The Associated Press rebuts the assumption that such policy is new and we have no hesitation in accepting its explanation that the Government have all along been carefully exploring every avenue of relaxation consistently with security in regard to every detenu under their charge and that such releases as are being made are experimental cases. We are rather glad that the Government have thus been able to implement their promises and vindicate their policy of caution and leniency in a matter which vitally concerns the contentment and prosperity of the people. We only hope that stray cases of failure of their expectations may not stay their hands in the pursuit, nay expansion, of the policy of relaxation which has been in evidence for some time past.

### **International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography**

The second International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography concluded its momentous session on 31st May last at Barcelona. It commenced its sittings at Madrid on 19th May, 1935. 510 delegates attended from 33 countries of the world of whom 60 were official representatives of their respective Governments. The Congress was opened at the Madrid University by the Education Minister. Sectional meetings were held

simultaneously for a number of days where various aspects of the movement were discussed and the resolutions recommended by the different sub-committees were adopted at the last meeting held in Barcelona. The only Indian representative Kumar Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, M.L.C. was accorded a cordial welcome on the opening day and he was the first speaker to speak on the Library Movement in India which received high encomiums from different quarters. State Receptions were given him by the President of the Spanish Republic at the Madrid Royal Palace, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs at his place, by the Mayors, Universities and National Bibliothecas of Madrid, Salamanca, Seville, Barcelona and other cities visited in Spain. The National Bibliothecas of Paris and Rome also arranged receptions. The Pope also gave him a special audience.

### **Madras Government on Development of Fisheries**

A scheme for research into and development of sea fisheries in the Madras Presidency is contemplated by the Local Government. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, it is understood, has offered a grant of one lakh of rupees provided a suitable scheme is evolved and submitted to it. Discussions are already proceeding in this respect, and proposals are expected to be formulated before long.

### **A Two Crore Scheme**

The Rangoon Municipal Corporation has adopted the report of the consulting engineers on the Pegu Yomas water supply scheme which, for the supply of 25 million gallons daily in the city, is estimated to cost Rs 193 lakhs.

### **Madras Inamdar's Deputation to the Viceroy**

His Excellency the Viceroy gave, it is reported, a long and patient hearing to an influential body of the Madras Inamdar when, led by Sir Ramchandra Rao, they recently waited on him in deputation. His Excellency was urged to disallow the bill recently passed by the Madras Legislative Council on the ground that it victimises the Inamdar, tends to expropriate them and deprives them, without sufficient reason, of the right to possession and cultivation of lands granted in perpetuity. It was pointed out by the deputationists that as much of 5 million acres of land and 500,000 Inamdar are likely to be affected by the legislation which besides being passed by the Legislative Council has received the assent of His Excellency the Governor. The deputationists were armed with legal opinion from their counsel in England. They submitted a copy of it to His Excellency, along with their memorandum and answered questions which were put to them in further elucidation of the subject by His Excellency assisted by the Honourable Members for Law and Education, the Law Secretary and the Secretary in charge of lands. The Viceroy's reply was naturally short and could not be final, as His

**Excellency explained, in view of the complicated nature of the issues to be considered. Said His Excellency :**

"Constitutional and legal issues of great importance arise. On the one hand the measure against which you have protested has the considered support of the Government of Madras and its basic principles have been repeatedly approved of by the majority in the local legislative council. On the other hand, there is the contention of the Inamdar, not the less impressive because of its studied moderation, that historical vested rights are being drastically curtailed without adequate compensation, without appropriate inquiry, without convincing proof that a situation has arisen to justify such curtailment of rights in the interests of the tenant. To reach a correct and just decision in these circumstances is by no means an easy task."

His Excellency however, promised that he would spare no pains to arrive at such a decision. The deputation must have returned with the satisfaction of having presented their case with cogency and force and in the best manner possible. Needless to add, the Viceroy's decision is being awaited with great suspense by the entire body of Inamdar in the province.

### **U. P. Governor on Fruit Growing**

The address which Sir Harry Haig, Governor U. P., delivered in opening the Kumaon Hill Fruit Show organised under the auspices of the U. P. Fruit Development Board, should give a stimulus to fruit growing on a large scale not only in the United Provinces to which His Excellency made particular reference but in other provinces as well. His Excellency was very right when he said that in a country like India where climate and tradition were alike favourable to fruit being used as diet it needed little propaganda to induce people to eat good fruits. But the difficulty was that there was not enough fruit to go round to satisfy the needs of home consumption, not to speak of the need of export beyond the confines of the village, the province or the country. So there was a prime necessity of increasing the fruit supply which was the object aimed at by the U. P. Fruit Development Board started under the auspices of the Provincial Department of Agriculture. The Board would develop fruit production on a large scale for sale in regular markets and so would look closely to marketing arrangements. "Though the plains of the United Provinces" said His Excellency "were suitable for certain kinds of fruit, these varieties could greatly be improved by care and popularized by suitable marketing arrangements. There were in the Kumaon hills areas where it should be possible to grow European fruits as well as anywhere in India." The movement for increasing fruit growing, His Excellency proceeded, could also be of great benefit to the poor man—the cultivator. If in suitable localities villagers could be encouraged to grow fruit for themselves and for local sale, it would improve their material resources and their health. District boards might be able to help in the task, and the Government hoped that they might be in a position to devote some funds out of the grant made by the Government of India for the encouragement of fruit in selected villages. His Excellency threw out in conclusion a suggestion to the landlords to turn to systematic and actual production of fruits with the help and guidance of the Fruit Development Board, implying perhaps

that they should not remain content with producing fruits, as many of them do, a hobbies. It is a precious suggestion and how much we wish that zemindars of all provinces and not of U. P. alone, follow it up, wherever circumstances permit, to their great advantage.

### **Abolition of the Zemindari System**

The abolition of the zemindari system without giving any compensation to zemindars, was one of the resolutions passed at a recent conference of Kisans of Sitapur district under the presidency of Mr Mohan Lal Saxena, M.L.A.

This resolution evoked considerable controversy between the labour leaders of the district and the Congress workers, the latter wanting to pass it with the amendment that adequate compensation be given to the zemindars.

Mr. Saxena, however, later explained his own views and the pronounced view of the Congress in the matter :

The Congress does not stand for the confiscation of property and no Congress Committee or any conference of Congressmen has yet passed even a recommendatory resolution to the contrary.

Even at the U. P. Kisan Conference held at Allahabad an amendment regarding abolition of the zemindari system without compensation was defeated by an overwhelming majority. So far as I am concerned, my views on the subject are well known even to the public as I seconded the resolution in the Allahabad conference which provided for compensation.

### **Paikpara Kumar's University Distinction**

We are exceedingly happy to be able to record the phenomenal success in the educational sphere of one of our youngest patrons. Kumar Bimal Chandra Sinha, eldest son of late Raja Manindra Chandra Sinha, M.B.E. of Paikpara (Senior Section) has topped the list of the candidates

who have been declared successful in the last I. A. Examination with an aggregate of 771 out of a total of 1000. It is also definitely known that he has secured the first place in the combined I. A. and I. Sc. list. This is no mean achievement and bears eloquent testimony to his high intellectual calibre. The Kumar is also deeply interested in physical culture and has built up a strong physique capable of standing sustained work. He excels particularly in riding. We cannot in this connection forbear making a reference to the able manager of the estate, Mr. Ananga Kumar Mukherjee, under whose

**Kumar Bimal Chandra Sinha**  
*of Paikpara Estate*

watchful guidance the Kumars are having a splendid training. May Kumar Bimal Chandra be spared many years to win fresh distinctions in his subsequent university career and renown in the world at large.



The second Kumar Amaresh Chandra Sinha who has passed this year the Matriculation Examination in the First Division with a 'Letter' in Mathematics and the third Kumar Brindaban Chandra Sinha who is reading in Class IX at present, are equally promising students, and we hope they will not fail to attain equally high academic distinctions.

### **U. P. Rural Uplift Scheme**

It is understood that the U. P. Government will shortly embark on their rural uplift scheme which would cost about Rs. 17 lakhs. The scheme falls into two parts : (1) departmental schemes for the development, such as the inauguration of health units, marketing of products of village industries, training in certain village industries to be imparted by master craftsmen, etc. through the agency of staffs maintained by the various departments and (2) the main scheme intended to build up the foundation for the rural uplift work and contemplating the appointment of a specially trained staff with specialised training in agriculture, sanitation and co-operative methods to work in certain number of selected villages in each district. For each district, there would be a specially trained person in supervisory charge as also a District Rural Association. The schemes contemplate that each district be given at least Rs 5,000 to be spent on small local works.

### **Moratorium on Rural debts**

At a Conference of Co-operative Panchayatdars held under the auspices of the Andhra Sahakara Sammelanam a proposal was put forward for declaring a moratorium on all agricultural debts till a proper machinery for conciliation of the debts was set up.

Mr. N. Satyanarayana, Secretary of the Sammelanam, dealt with the present crisis in the co-operative movement and the need for a change in the outlook of co-operators. He said that the present set-back in the co-operative movement was due to ignoring of two fundamental defects pointed out by the late Mr. Gokhale when the movement was started : viz., the lack of widespread education and the existence of a heavy load of prior debt. These two defects, he said, which the Government did not remove, contributed to the failure of the movement. He pointed out that the total working capital of the co-operative credit societies in India as a whole would not be adequate even to meet the annual interest on rural debt. He pleaded for a speedy solution of the problem of rural debt by the declaration of a moratorium and setting up conciliation boards.

### **Agra Kisan Conference**

A strong anti-zemindari note was struck in the recent session of the Agra District Kisan Conference held at Nagla Bishan, some twenty miles from Agra. About 2,000 agriculturists and petty zemindars gathered under the presidency of Mr. Balkrishna Sharma, the former editor of the *Pratab*. Speaker after speaker denounced the zemindari system and

**held the zemindars equally with the Government responsible for the present disabilities and miseries of the agriculturists.**

A number of Resolutions were passed unanimously advocating the abolition of the Zemindari system, transfer of proprietary rights to cultivators of lands and exemption from revenue of petty zemindars paying Rs. 100 and less as revenue. Other resolutions demanded that cultivators' rent arrears should be exempted. The practice of *nazarana*, *hari*, *begar*, *guptlagaan*, etc., and realising *lagaan* without receipts should be made illegal and Government servants extracting bribes should be severely punished. The Government should pay off the debts of the petty zemindars and cultivators and ejectment should be discontinued. Rent should be charged on the net profits after deducting the cultivator's family expenses and investments. The practice of arresting zemindars and cultivators for arrears should be discontinued and irrigation charges should be reduced by half.

The conference condemned the Government's policy of making insufficient provision for cultivators in the budgets and their practice of ignoring the cultivators' representations.

### **Parlakimedi Raja's Shooting Feats**

A tigress, which had killed a large number of cattle, was shot recently by the Raja Saheb of Parlakimedi in the Estate Reserve forests, five miles from Parlakimedi town.

Besides this tigress the Raja has up to now shot nine tigers and 50 panthers.

### **Maharaja of Gondal's Donation**

The Maharaja of Gondal who contributed a lakh of rupees to the Bihar Earthquake Relief Fund last year, has now donated one lakh of rupees to the Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund.

### **Charities and Benevolences—**

Mr. Jatindra Mohan Dutta has given a donation of Rs. 15,000 in Government promissory notes and Rs. 5,000 in cash for a dispensary at Guti, near Haripal in the Serampore subdivision.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Ram Coomar Bangur, a merchant of Calcutta, has given a sum of Rs. 82,000 and 3½ percent Government securities to the value of Rs. 2,00,000 as a contribution towards the proposed tuberculosis sanatorium at Kalimpong.

### **OBITUARY**

We deeply regret to record the death which took place recently at Uttarpara of Mrs. Ambujabala Devi, wife of Mr. Bhupendra Nath Mukherjee. She was the daughter-in-law of the late Raja Peary Mohan Mukherjee, C.S.I., ex-member of the old Imperial Legislative Council, and the only daughter of the late Mr. Surendra Nath Roy, of Behala, some time President of the Bengal Legislative Council.

We offer our sincere condolence to Mr. Mukherjee in his great bereavement.





KUMAR GOCOOL CHUNDER LAW



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## Misdirected Patriotism

A new phase in the constitutional history of India has been opened with the royal assent accorded to the India Bill. The most fundamental question before the country now is whether or not the India Act will be worked in the spirit in which it is conceived and whether the scope provided by the Act to the Indians for the display of their character, judgment and capacity for successful government will be utilized or wasted.

For over a quarter of a century the country was kept in a state of excitement by spectacular demonstrations of the Congress, which pursued a negative policy of obstruction. No constructive scheme was attempted to be outlined or helpful suggestion given for development of the reformed constitutions of the period. And as if the waste of energy and opportunity of the last twenty-five years has not been enough, the Congress leaders are again out—so it seems from the responsible talks of prominent Congress men and the trend of recent discussions at Wardhaganj—to exhibit their old tactics of inaction and obstruction not from outside but from within the Councils.

Non-co-operation, civil resistance and council-wrecking are but different aspects of the same programme of misdirecting the country's energy and resources along wrong and unpractical channels of obstruction and opposition.

If the country hitherto did not raise its voice against the Congress policy, it was not because the country as a whole endorsed such a policy but because she allowed that great political organisation unrestricted scope for experimenting upon its policy. The experiment has been tried

and long enough and found absolutely futile. Not only has it failed to bring any tangible benefit to the country but it has caused incalculable harm to the country's cause. Can it be denied that the defiance of law and authority—which are the foundation of all civilized societies—has received a great stimulus from the civil resistance movement? Vast amount of money representing the tax payer's blood which might have been profitably spent upon the nation-building purposes had to be squandered upon fighting the civil disobedience movement. The relations between landlords and tenants ever so cordial have been embittered by the Congress through its support of no-rent campaign in its attempt to enlist mass sympathy for its policy. Brilliant careers—the future hope of the country—have been irretrievably lost for which the Congress is in no small measure responsible. Differences between communities and castes have been accentuated through misreading of the situation and refusal to face facts. Lastly, but by no means the least important, there has been a marked alienation of British sympathy and of that great body of British merchants resident in India from Indian cause through Congress utterances, at once irresponsible and unwise.

If such were the net achievements of the Congress policy during the last twenty-five years, has not articulate India a right to cry halt and ask the Congress either to change its policy, or to quit the field. We are no blind critics of the Congress organisation. We have as much regard for this great political body as anybody else. There can be no question about the sincerity of the Congress aims to enable the country to secure her rightful place among the civilized nations of the world. But such sincerity of purpose should be no justification for the continuance of methods which have been demonstrably found against the best interests of the country. And if the Congress insists upon a pursuit of its old methods the country has right to speak out and give her mandate.

We are no apologists for the India Act, nor do we endorse every provision in the Act. There is much in it for which we have a positive dislike. But we are definitely of opinion that on critical analysis the India Act will not be found as much objectionable as it is generally believed to be. Human ingenuity has not been able as yet to produce an ideal constitution. And no constitution is free from defects. And it is only through actual working of a constitution that such defects are remedied and improvements effected. Then there is another viewpoint from which we should look at it. Nobody can argue that the India Act has been rushed through the British Parliament at the instance of British politicians. Had not the idea of a Round Table Conference originated with Indian leaders? Could anybody conceive of any line of India's constitutional development except in the direction of a federation? Was the association of Indian leaders with British politicians in the matter of evolving a constitution for India a mere farce and the counsel and advice tendered by the former absolutely meaningless? True it is that all the legitimate claims and political aspirations of Indians have not been fully met.

Anyone who is familiar with the history of the evolution of democratic institutions, knows quite well that the modern democracies have reached their present state after fighting and surmounting many adverse circumstances. Nowhere had democracy an easy sailing. Attainment of a perfect democracy has always been a slow and gradual process. Preparation of the mass mind for comprehending all the issues of democratic government must precede attainment of fully developed democracy. Hence we would suggest that the Act be given a fair trial. If the Congress could not see its way to work it in a spirit of co-operation they must not make it impossible for others who genuinely believe that the new constitution can be worked to the advantage of the country.

Patriotism can never be the monopoly of any one class or section of the people. To claim infallibility for its policy or method by the Congress would be a height of folly and would only retard the progress of the country.

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## National Agriculturist Party of Oudh : Need of its Formation

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BY RAI BAHADUR KUNWAR MAHESHWAR DAYAL SETH,  
*Talugdar, Kotra Estate, Honorary Secretary,*  
*National Agriculturist Party of Oudh.*

NATIONAL life of any country depends on the harmonious evolution of its institutions and organisations, political, social, economic and religious, and wherever this equilibrium is disturbed consequent upon the inrush of new ideals, new vision, new culture, new conceptions of life and things, there arises a need for readjustment with changing environments to restore the balance and help the evolution of national life in its various aspects along uninterrupted lines. But this demand for adjustment calls into play dynamic forces, dynamic ideas and dynamic personalities, which act and react on the existing order of things till a new state of society is evolved where the new ideal finds its fulfilment. But if these operating forces aim at pulling down the whole structure by digging out its very foundation, the result is disastrous. There is a complete disruption of social harmony, of political tranquillity, of civic agreement, of religious concord and of economic poise. The whole society is reduced to a state of chaos and there is increasing bewilderment as to how to build a-new. The fantastic picture of the future edifice which imagination has painted with glowing colours fades away and resolves into ethereal elements of which it was made. But on the other hand, if these operating forces work in conjunction with the constructive tendencies of life, of law and spirit and build cautiously and prudently, strengthening old foundation and remodelling super-structure with such changes, such alterations, such improvements, such embellishments as meet the taste of changing times and as add to the beauty and symmetry of the whole structure, the resultant picture has the charm and fascination of a perfect design that beautifully blends the shade of the past with the colour of the present.

Our country is passing through a period of transition, of readjustment, of reorientation, and both types of force are at work. The Congress symbolizes a spirit of revolt, a spirit of challenge, a spirit of fool-hardiness and is out to pull down the very foundations on which our political and social structure stands. Its imagination exults in painting the most alluring pictures of life and institutions, and in hypnotising people into a belief

that an utopia is being created in the twinkling of an eye for their future happiness and glory. On the other hand, the Liberal Party evinces a spirit of caution, of prudence, of sobriety, and aims at securing a peaceful evolution of political and social institutions for the enjoyment of national liberty. But its activities are mostly confined to political sphere and its appeal lies mainly with the intelligentsia. The larger life of the nation, particularly of the vast rural population, is left untouched. Therefore there was a pressing and urgent demand for the inauguration of a new party whose influence might penetrate into the very heart of villages and could awaken the rural population to a sense of dignity and self-respect and push it on to its proper place in the national life of the country, strengthening the traditional link that binds the landlords and the tenants in a tie of mutual good will, mutual love, and mutual sympathy. There was a call for such a party as might offer a bold front to disruptive forces that were eating into the vitals of the nation and as might take up a programme of work for an all-round development of national life. No wonder if the march of events, the force of political situation and the demand of the times brought into existence the National Agriculturist Party of Oudh to fill a gap in the national life of the country.

The foundation of democracy has already been laid in this country. Every democracy worth the name presupposes the existence of political parties with a definite programme of their own for national evolution and good government. There is at present only one organised political party and that is the Congress. In the legislatures of this country its influence is bound to predominate and its viewpoint, howsoever wrong it may be, to capture an ascendant place unless there be an equally strong party to present the other side of the shield. Democracy can succeed and good government can be ensured when both sides of the picture are exhibited to the nation. The National Agriculturist Party's strength and influence should come up to the level where the Congress stands, but to achieve this end there should be wide awakening among the members of the landowning classes.

The enthusiasm with which landlords and tenants have joined its membership and associated themselves with its work is a sure augury for the future success of the Party. It is gaining strength from day to day and evolving a coherent organisation to carry on its work with all the zeal that the present situation demands. The significance and the importance of the Party will be duly realised and appreciated in fullness of time. The measure of success it has achieved so far gives a forecast of its future triumph.

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## Kumar Gocool Chunder Law

Kumar Gocool Chunder Law, whose short but interesting life-sketch forms the subject-matter of this article, belongs to the famous Law family of Calcutta which has produced not a few outstanding personalities in the province, noted for their public spirit, liberal culture, business acumen and charitableness. Eldest son of the late Raja Kristodass Law Kumar G. C. Law became early attracted to business, having a natural bent for the same. Circumstanced as he was, he might easily have led a life of ease and comfort but he chose instead to pursue a path of toilsome endeavour characteristic of all business activities. As he possessed in abundance those virtues which make for a successful businessman, his career was earmarked, as it were, for business.

Kumar G. C. Law is not a University man. While receiving his early education at the Hare, the Hindu, Doveton and Metropolitan Institutions, he developed a positive disgust for College education and joined, at the age of 21, the firm of Messrs Kristodass Law & Co. where he continued till the death of his father in November, 1924. After his father's death he became a partner in the firm of Messrs Prawn Kissen Law & Co.

His practical turn of mind combined with business experience extending over thirty years led Kumar G. C. Law to start in May, 1932, a factory of which he is the sole proprietor, for the manufacture of nibs, holders, pencils, ink and fountain pens for which there exists a great demand in the country. Swadeshi manufacturing concerns have to face keen foreign competition. But Kumar G. C. Law is so confident of the success of his venture that he risked a capital outlay of more than three lakhs of Rupees on the factory which has become familiar under the name of "*The Bharati Works*". Public recognition of the products of the factory has not been slow to come. At the last Kumbakonam Exhibition, Madras, the Bharati factory has been awarded a certificate and a *gold* medal. The company has a great future before it.

A successful businessman Kumar G. C. Law's attention is not entirely absorbed by his business concerns. He has a good deal of attention and energy to give to the successful management of his extensive zamindaries in Jessore, Harishpur (Orissa), Chourashi (24-Perganas), Deoli (24-Perganas), and vast landed properties in Calcutta. His solicitude for his tenants finds tangible expression in the sinking of wells, digging of ponds, erection and maintenance of schools and hospitals, provision of free medical aid and looking after their needs in a hundred other ways.

Of his numerous charities and acts of benevolence his annual donations to the Mental Hospital of Calcutta, to the Ramkrishna Society Anath Bhandar, monthly grants to the schools within his zamindaries, deserve special mention. His lump sum donations to the Chitta Ranjan Sevasadan and to the *Nama Kirtan* celebrations which lasted for one year at Nabadwip under his distinguished patronage, his kindly consideration for the Harijans in constructing wells in Harishpur for their use, demonstrate at once that his charities are not inspired by any narrowness of feelings or considerations.

Amidst his preoccupations in business he found time to make a special study of Botany and it was his special proficiency in this science that entitled him to become a member and for sometime President of the Royal Agri-Horticultural Society of India. He is also a trustee of the Provident Fund Institution of the same society. He has a rare and precious collection of orchids in his own house in Calcutta and has been awarded several certificates and medals in connection with orchid shows of the Society. He has recently been elected as an oversea member of the Orchid Circle of Ceylon.

He is a member of the British Indian Association and a member of the Calcutta Club. He is also connected with a number of business organisations. He is a Director of the Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association and Chairman of the India Equitable Insurance Company of Calcutta. He is a Vice-President of the Mental Hospital, Calcutta. He was lately an Honorary Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta. He is a member of the Subarnabanik Samaj, a member of the executive committee of the District Charitable Society, a member of the Subarnabanik Charitable Association, as also of the Vivekananda Society, Calcutta.

Amiable and unostentatious Kumar Gocool Chunder Law leads a very simple life, his principal recreations being angling and cultivation of orchids and other plants. His only son Sreeman Murari Charan Law after passing the Matriculation Examination of the Calcutta University has joined the Bharati Works as its Chief Manager.

Kumar G. C. Law is now 61 years of age and it reflects great credit on him that at such an advanced age he does not shirk the responsibilities of office and other works.

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# The Development Bill in Bengal Council

BY KUMAR H. K. MITTER.

**T**HIE Bengal Development Bill, 1935, is, it is announced, intended to improve the decadent parts of the province ; and if, on examination, it is found to hold out really the prospect of achieving its avowed object, there is no reason why everybody should not accept and welcome it.

Now looking closely into the Bill as it stood at the time of its first publication, one comes across a number of safeguards which show clearly that there are some serious inherent defects in it and that it, when acted upon, may give rise to a multiplicity of difficulties and disputes. If the jurisdiction of ordinary civil courts were also extended to these disputes, probably that would not be favourable to the policy of the Government. It is for this reason that throughout the Bill the framers in some way or other have deliberately tried to avoid the ordinary civil courts and also the High Court and with this end in view section 31B has been specifically put in. If the beginning of a good and noble thing be like this, its progress may well be calculated at once. Had the Government been guided solely by considerations of fair deal, the question of debarring the people from getting relief in civil courts would never have arisen nor would that ever call for such safeguards and hedges from beginning to end.

The Select Committee improved the Bill to a certain extent, but many new things are now coming to light. The last debate of Mr. Ross laid bare certain facts of which the Council had no knowledge till then. It transpired that the framers of the Bill had contemplated the inclusion of many other things (such as construction of railways and roads) besides drainage and irrigation projects in the list of improvement works. For a while it seemed as if Mr. Ross had hit the nail in the right direction, but curiously enough Mr. Ross withdrew his amendment with the permission of the House, and to my great surprise that permission was granted by an overwhelming majority. I can only say that the Bill will be safely carried through the Council—and in all probability, with the amendments proposed by the Select Committee and the further amendments that, it is understood, will be moved by the Government. But what I apprehend is that in spite of these changes, the Bill will contain many provisions calculated to affect adversely the interests of both landlords and agriculturists.

## Developing Rural Areas in Bengal

BY ECONOMICUS.

**I**T may be remembered that at the time of presenting the Budget of the Government of India in February last, Sir James Grigg announced his proposal to utilise a crore of rupees out of the surplus of Rs. 3,89 lakhs which it was anticipated would accrue at the close of the financial year 1934-35, for allocation to the Provincial Governments for financing schemes of rural development. The relevant extract from the speech of the Finance Member is given below :—

"I recognize that it may be contended that schemes of rural development are primarily the function of Provincial Governments, whether these schemes take the form of improved methods of agriculture, the establishment of industries to give employment to, and increase the income of, the cultivators or measures designed to effect a general improvement in the condition of village life. It is a problem to which all local Governments are fully alive and to which Provincial Ministers in particular have devoted much attention, since these matters were entrusted to them. Schemes have been examined and worked out but unfortunately many of them are still merely paper schemes, for even before the financial stringency of recent years some local Governments could only devote very inadequate funds to those purposes, and in the recent years of crisis and retrenchment it has been impossible for any Government to find money for new projects however likely they were to contribute to the prosperity of the Province. We feel, therefore, that now when the Central Government fortunately happens to have balances on which it can draw, we cannot do better than make some share of it available to the Provinces to carry out schemes which have been held up and thereby show that the Government of India have a very deep concern with the welfare and prosperity of the cultivators and are prepared to help local Governments to carry out schemes for their benefit".

Two conditions were imposed governing this grant by the Finance Member, namely,

(1) that the grant should be spent on schemes approved by the Government of India which will improve the economic position of the people, and

(2) that it will be devoted only to schemes which the local Government would not otherwise have been able to undertake in the immediate future.

It was laid down for guidance of the Provincial Governments that preference would be given to schemes which could be quickly put into operation but the money need not be all spent immediately or during the year 1935-36.

The allocation made to the Government of Bengal amounted to Rs. 16 lakhs which as in other Provinces but in a more emphatic manner in Bengal would be insufficient to meet even a fraction of the development schemes that it is necessary and urgent to undertake for ameliorating the conditions of the people. The Government of Bengal have been in communication with the Government of India to secure approval of the schemes which they propose to finance out of the grant and the list of the schemes that have been approved by the Government of India has just been published. They are—

(1) The establishment of seed, paddy and crop demonstration centres—Rs. 1,09,000.

The idea is to establish small seed multiplication and demonstration farms in union board areas for the propagation of improved seed.

(2) The improvement of cattle and fodder crops—Rs. 1,75,000.

(3) The improvement of poultry—Rs. 500.

Under these two schemes, the Government propose to strengthen the staff of the two temporary livestock officers now working in the Malda-Rajshahi and Nadia-Hooghly areas respectively by the addition of three more. Provision will be made for the improvement of the stock of cattle in the districts and for fodder, and also for the improvement of poultry.

(4) Propaganda work in the Districts—Rs. 20,000.

This sum is intended to provide 30 loud-speakers to help those who want to address mass meetings in the rural areas in connection with propaganda relating to rural uplift. These loud-speakers would be distributed as follows : Midnapore 2, Mymensingh 2, Rangpur 2, Bakerganj 2, Tippera 2, and the remaining Districts excluding Darjeeling and Chittagong Hill Tracts—one each.

(5) The establishment of an experimental rural broadcasting service in the Midnapore District—Rs. 82,000.

The broadcasting service will be installed with a medium wave transmitter to be set up in the Midnapore Court building. It will for the present serve 50 specially suited receiving sets installed in different parts of the District. The transmitter will be used to re-broadcast the amusement programme radiated from the Calcutta Broadcasting Station and also to

broadcast from Midnapore in local dialect news, instructions and propaganda talks "of the kind required by the people of Midnapore and in a form likely to appeal to them". It is proposed to work the station six months in the year when receptivity is likely to be satisfactory and the grant covers an experimental period of 2 years after which it is hoped it will be possible to establish the service on a business footing.

(6) The improved marketing of jute and paddy—Rs. 50,000.

It is intended to establish with the help of this grant one jute marketing society and one paddy marketing society on a co-operative basis.

(7) The establishment of coir-spinning and weaving demonstration parties—Rs. 40,700.

The idea is to utilize the huge supply of cocoanuts which is every year produced in this Province for the promotion of the coir-industry in different forms which have a well-established market in Bengal and for which the Province at present depends mainly on Southern India. At present the Department of Industries have engaged one Demonstration Party and it is proposed to increase the number by the addition of 4 more parties to work for a period of 3 years.

(8) The establishment of Union Board Dispensaries and the improvement of water supply in the rural areas—Rs. 3,50,000.

This is the largest grant made for a single item, and the plan includes the following :

(i) Half of the amount to be spent on the establishment of dispensaries and half on water-supply ; but the proportion may be varied in individual cases and will be mainly determined by local opinion, the Government indicating the sums that it would be wise to spend, district by district, on the two heads. Distribution will be effected by the Commissioners and the District Officers.

(ii) The Dispensaries will be brick-built structures with corrugated iron roofing constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,100 each according to a type plan prepared by the Chief Engineer, P. W. D. The equipment for each dispensary including cost of furniture, instruments and medicine is estimated to cost about Rs. 500. A tube-well at an approximate cost of Rs. 200 will also be provided if there is no good source of water-supply in the vicinity. There will be no difficulty in finding free accommodation in the village for the medical officer who also will be his own compounder. A condition of the grant will be that the recurring expenditure which is expected to be Rs. 800 per annum is definitely assured from local sources.

(iii) The grant for water supply will be allotted to specific projects (sinking of tube-wells or masonry wells, excavation of tanks etc.) by the District Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the District Board. In making the grants, preference will be given to district areas in which cholera is endemic.

(9) The introduction into selected secondary schools of agricultural and manual training ; the provision of school playgrounds in rural areas ; village playgrounds, village libraries and halls—Rs. 1,80,000.

This grant is obviously intended to implement some of the proposals made by the Ministry of Education in their Resolution on educational policy published on the 1st August last.

(10) Grants-in-aid of the Boy Scout, Girl Guide and Bratachari Movements—Rs. 20,000.

(11) Minor drainage and flushing schemes in rural areas—Rs. 3,30,000.

The schemes must be approved by the technical experts of the local Government. In the selection of projects under this head the following three principles will be observed as far as possible :

(a) The expenditure should be calculated to effect a permanent improvement and not to provide a palliative the benefit for which will only be felt for a few years.

(b) The schemes selected should be schemes which have the support of local opinion ; and

(c) Money must be available locally for maintenance charges if any are involved.

(12) Improvements in the Chittagong Hill Tracts—Rs. 25,000.

The improvements will include expenditure on water-supply (supplemented by any grants that might be made under head 8), drainage (sanitary and agricultural) and communications (including wooden bridges).

(13) Discretionary grants to Commissioners and District Officers—Rs. 2,17,800.

No specific purposes are proposed excepting that the amounts "are to be spent only on supplementary projects within the general scope of the Government of India's grant." It is remarkable how such a vague item could secure the approval of the Government of India in view of the conditions laid down by them governing the grant. The first of the two conditions laid down can only be taken to mean that the schemes submitted for approval must be specific.

On a calculation, it is found that the Reserved Departments get under the heads (4), (5), and (13) Rs. 3,29,800 ; the Ministry of Agriculture secures Rs. 3,75,200 under the heads (1), (2), (3), (6) and 7 ; the Ministry in charge of the Medical and Public Health Departments get Rs. 7,05,000 under the heads (8), (11) and (12) ; and the Ministry of Education gets Rs. 2,00,000 under the heads (9) and (10).

# Educational Reform

## A Study of the Bengal Government Resolution on Education

BY KHAGENDRA N. SEN, M.A., F.R.E.S. (Lond.)

**O**N the 1st of August last was published the anxiously awaited announcement of Government policy on education in Bengal. The document has been published in the form of a Resolution occupying about 20 pages of the *Calcutta Gazette* and covers every aspect of primary and secondary education. Exactly a hundred years ago, in 1835, another famous Resolution of the Government of India "gave a new direction and a strong impetus to education in India." The present Resolution too, if and when it is given complete effect, is calculated to bring about drastic and radical changes in the educational system of this Province. But it would evidently be too rash to anticipate a state of the public exchequer or an amount of public support such as would assure to the scheme a speedy maturity. Those must clearly be the double foundation on which the educational structure of the Province must be reared. In the discussions that follow, attention will be restricted only to the primary and secondary stages of our educational system. But it is necessary, in order to appreciate the nature and extent of the proposals that are contained in the Resolution, that we should have a general idea of the present educational structure and its defects. The following few paragraphs will help to make the position clear.

### PRIMARY EDUCATION

(a) Number of Schools and attendance :—In the year 1926-27, there were 38,187 primary schools for boys ; in five years, in 1931-32, the number increased to 43,718. In the following year it was 44,633 while in 1933-34, the latest year for which figures are available, the number rose to 45,431. The total number of primary schools for boys as well as girls in 1933-34 was 64,320, as against 62,719 in the previous year and the number of pupils also increased to 22,86,412 in 1933-34 compared to 21,92,130 in the preceding year. According to the last census, the total number of males of school-going age was 39,06,254, out of which 16,74,008 boys were attending primary schools. The proportion comes to about 43 per cent ; the percentage would come to about 50 if all the boys in the primary stage were included. The average roll strength of primary schools is very nearly 40 per school. In other words, if a scheme of universal compulsory primary education were to be effected, one of two things must be done ; either, keeping the average strength of the rolls as it is, the number of schools should be

doubled ; or if the number of schools is be kept at its present figure, the number of pupils per school must be raised to 80 per school. If the number of schools is reduced, the number of pupils attending a school must further increase.

(b) Adequacy of the number :—The advisability of increasing the number of schools is to be determined by the question of cost while the possibility of reduction must be limited by the number that could be accommodated in a class having regard to the necessity of individual attention. The primary stage consists at present of five classes and if the number of pupils could be uniformly distributed, there should not be more than 150 students per school on the basis of 30 boys per class in a five-class school or 120 students per school of four classes. In the first case, there would be a little over 26,000 schools, and in the latter a little over 33,000 schools, when all the boys of school-going age will be receiving instruction.

(c) Area served by a school :—The question of adequacy will also have to be determined by the area served on the average by each school. "It may be said with confidence", the Quinquennial Report on the Progress of Education for the years 1927-32 states, "that there are in Bengal nearly as many school units for boys as are needed". This does not mean that there is at present an over-supply of primary schools in Bengal for the fact remains that the average area served by each school is more than a square mile in every Division with the exception of the Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions where the area served is more than two square miles. Any drastic reduction in the number of schools will thus seriously diminish the facilities for education at present available. On the other hand, there is a considerable scope for increasing the number of schools in the Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions.

(d) Literacy :—The question may be looked at from still another point of view. It is significant that the percentage of literacy in 1931 was less than in 1921. This points to an enormous gap between the percentages of those who receive education and those who are classed as literates. It conceals a great wastage in education and nowhere is this wastage so marked as in the different classes of the primary schools. There is, in short, a large percentage of relapse to illiteracy. According to calculations made in the Quinquennial Report, 885,432 pupils in the lowest class (class I) of the primary schools in 1928 dwindled to 94,030 or 10·6 per cent in the highest class (class V) in 1932. In that year, there were 13,44,000 pupils in the lowest class. Now on the assumption (vide the Quinquennial Report, p. 22) that the normal proportion of decrease from class to class might be reckoned at a sixth (which would include the incidence of mortality as well as the losses resulting from other causes), there should be 48,24,960 pupils receiving instruction in all the five classes of a primary school in 1937 on the basis of 359 pupils (all classes) per school to 100 pupils in the lowest class. In other words, universal primary education would have been achieved

if those who are now in the lowermost primary classes could be induced to stay on till the topmost class. The problem is essentially one of preventing wastage.

(e) The problem of cost :—In 1933-34, 64,320 schools (boys and girls) cost Rs. 80,22,674 from all sources. This means an average of Rs. 125 per school per annum or Rs. 10-8 per month, or about Rs. 3-8 per scholar per annum. While in most provinces, primary education is free, the average fee, levied in Bengal is about Re. 1-8 per head per year so that the total income from fees would normally be with the present strength a little over Rs. 34 lakhs a year. The total cost of maintaining primary schools for boys (numbering 45,431) in 1933-34 was Rs. 64,99,588 which included Rs. 21,62,627 paid from Provincial revenues, Rs. 7,55,433 paid from district funds and Rs. 7,38,656 contributed by municipal funds. The roll strength of these schools was 17,90,154 (including 1,16,146 girls) so that the cost per school per annum comes to Rs. 143 or Rs. 12 per month or about Rs. 3-10 per head per annum.

(f) Efficiency and the quality of education imparted :—No one can in these miserable circumstances expect a high—or even a moderately good standard of education in the primary schools. The question of cost counts. Seventy per cent of the schools are single-teacher schools while in one Division, the proportion is 80 per cent, one teacher teaching three classes simultaneously in nearly each lower primary school ! The present average is about 1.5 teachers per school. Out of 82,280 men teachers, 24,403 have received some sort of training, while of the 5,670 women teachers only 597 are trained. This is not surprising because the average pay of a teacher in schools under private management which constitute by far the large majority of the schools, is between Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 only per month. Of the untrained teachers, it is reported, "there are many who cannot even read correctly or with ease and it is idle to expect them to teach their pupils effectively".

In short, as the Quinquennial Report summarises : "Bengal spends the smallest percentage on primary education, the contribution by public bodies to the total primary expenditure is lowest in this province, the expenditure per head of the population is lowest, the expenditure per scholar is the least, the average fee the highest".

#### SECONDARY EDUCATION

The main figures relating to the secondary schools in Bengal are given below :—

	1932-33	1933-34
High English Schools	1,186	1,221
Middle English Schools	1,873	1,889
Middle Vernacular Schools	62	60
Number of pupils	456,175	463,060
Number of teachers (men and women)		26,403
Number of trained teachers (men and women)		5,260
Cost	Rs. 1,49,09,770	1,53,76,660
Average annual cost per school	4,777	4,850
Average annual cost per pupil	" 32.6	33.2

The total cost of maintaining secondary schools for Indian boys came up to Rs. 1,26,59,618 in 1933-34 of which public funds (Provincial as well as local) provided Rs. 20,96,692 or 16·6 per cent. The costs of the different categories of schools were calculated as follows :—High English Schools—Rs. 97,87,952, Middle English Schools—Rs. 28,18,912, and Middle Vernacular Schools Rs. 52,754.

The following figures which relate to the year 1931-32 will indicate the problem of control ; Schools under Government management—54 ; Schools under District Boards and Municipalities—61 ; Private Aided Schools—48,248 ; Private Unaided Schools—8,315. The Government provide the inspecting staff and exercise a certain amount of control in the case of aided schools by attaching certain conditions to the grants in respect of the constitution of managing committees, the remuneration and appointment of teachers, the buildings etc. The Government also exercise control over secondary education by their power of recommending text books for use in schools. This is done through a Text Book Committee constituted by them. The University of Calcutta exercise control through their powers of affiliation for the purposes of the Matriculation Examination which is the preliminary to the higher University examinations. In 1930, the University issued a School Code and constituted an Arbitration Board to safeguard the interests of teachers. The School Code lays down rules for the management of non-Government high schools and affords a common basis for the Department of Education and the University to act jointly in the control of high schools. This dual control is a feature of the secondary education system in Bengal, and has lately been much criticised. But we have not been able to discover any definite charge against the system except that sometimes the University have granted affiliation to schools in spite of adverse reports by the Government inspecting staff and that the University is alleged to favour a lowering of the standard of examinations. The replies to those charges are obvious but we may pass on. They are not worthy of serious notice.

In fact, the real defects of the present system of secondary education are too glaring to leave us guessing. The curriculum is not what it should be and teaching is indifferent. The average number of trained teachers is hardly 18 per school as against 15.6 in Madras and the facilities for the training of teachers are woefully inadequate. Salaries paid to teachers are miserable and are often subjected to "forced subscriptions". It is all at bottom a question of funds. But it may be remarked that the University has already revised the Matriculation syllabus, made vernacular the medium of instruction and instituted a teachers' training diploma course. A new curriculum of studies has also been introduced since January, 1931, for all classes from III to VIII of all secondary schools and includes such subjects as Nature Study and Science, Music, History of England, Civics, Cooking, Hygiene, Agricultural and Manual work. The new curriculum is no doubt the result of an attempt to give a practical bias to education instead of its being overburdened with a desire to pass the Matriculation

But on account of a want of clearly defined aims and standards and lack of funds, the new changes have not been much of a success.

The Resolution of the Government of Bengal is no doubt well grounded in a desire to improve the system of education in this Province. The main features of their scheme may be summarised as follows.

#### PRIMARY EDUCATION

(1) Reduction of the existing primary schools to a total of 16,297 and their redistribution on the basis of one primary school for 3,000 of population. Each of these schools will be a four-class school and on the basis of 30 per class, there would be about 19 lakhs of pupils on the rolls of which 14 lakhs would be in the upper three classes.

(2) This attendance will be secured not by means of compulsion in the sense that every child of school-going age should be compelled to attend a primary school but by compulsion in the sense that "once a child joins school, it should be compelled to remain at school till it has finished a primary course or for five years—and, as a corollary to this, that no child should be allowed to remain in the same class for more than two years".

(3) Every primary school of four classes will be expected to maintain a staff of four teachers, but if and when it is found necessary and desirable to start a school with a smaller number of classes the number of teachers should be the same as the number of classes.

(4) Provision would be made for the training of more primary school teachers for at present the proportion of trained teachers in Bengal is the lowest in all India. 73.3 per cent of the teachers in the Punjab are trained as against 59.4 in Madras and only 28.1 in Bengal.

(5) The "ultimate aim" of the Government is to make primary education free, at least for those who are too poor to pay any fees at all.

(6) At present two out of the three children who come to the end of the primary course pass on to the middle school, the countryside being thus regularly drained of its "most hopeful and intelligent elements". This points to the necessity of giving a rural bias to education and of making the primary course self-contained with the aim of giving the pupils a grounding in the rudiments of general knowledge and also to prepare him for his own vocation. A curriculum with that end in view, we are told, is being prepared.

(7) In order to complete the scheme, the future teachers in the primary schools must also be "rural-minded" and it is partly with a view to ensuring the supply of such teachers that the Government propose to increase the number of Middle Vernacular Schools.

(8) There would be under the scheme 64,000 men and women teachers, 16,000 being employed on a pay of Rs. 20 and 48,000 on a pay of Rs. 15. The 16,000 teachers on Rs. 20 per month would be the headmasters of the 16,000 schools and the total annual expenditure would be Rs. 1,44,00,000.

(9) The inspecting staff will consist of one Sub-inspector for every 100 schools, 25 per cent of the cadre being filled by the most capable and

experience of the primary school headmasters. A special six months' training course will be devised for training these teachers for the work that they will have to do. At least 10 per cent of the inspecting staff will be women.

It will be seen from the above that there are two aspects from which the Government scheme may be approached and criticised. The first is the question of cost. The second is the purpose for which primary education is primarily meant.

As regards the first, the salaries alone of the teachers will consume Rs. 1,44,00,000. Then there is the general rule proposed by the Government that every school primary as well as secondary should have its own agricultural farm, a play ground as well as facilities for vocational training, besides miscellaneous expenses. The full cost for all these has not been worked out yet.

As regards the second, there can be no doubt: that our education must be broad based on the rural economy of India, and there is much in the scheme with which everyone who has the interest of the country at heart will sympathise. But one cannot be too careful that in going to rationalise our system of education the Government is not actually withdrawing the existing facilities for education. Those who have followed the description of the existing system given above need not be told that the proposal that the number of primary schools should be reduced to 16,000 which is about a fourth of the total number of primary schools now existing is reactionary in the extreme. At any rate it does not take into account the fact that there are in Bengal about 40 lakhs of males of school-going age whom the primary schools must in the near future include. If the number of the primary schools is reduced to 16,000 there will in every area some who, however willing, would be unable to avail themselves of the school for the simple reason that it will be inaccessible to them.

#### SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Government who have made no secret of their sense of disapproval of the existing dual control over secondary education propose that the control should be vested in a Board of Secondary Education "on which there would be adequate representation for all the different interests involved". The resolution does not suggest any optimum number of secondary schools necessary and adequate for the Province, beyond suggesting that there should be a redistribution of the existing schools and making the significant remark that all Bengal is not over-schooled and that "there are areas which require more schools than they have at present". The following give in brief the main recommendations of the Government for overhauling the system of secondary education in Bengal:

(1) Having regard to the suggestions made in respect of primary education, the Middle Vernacular Schools which have been fast losing favour in Bengal will be called upon to fulfil an important need. It is suggested, therefore, that there should be one Middle Vernacular School to every police station, roughly one to every 25 primary schools, the

proportion being gradually increased till it is one to five. These schools will have their three middle classes and most of them will have attached to them the poor classes of primary school. The curriculum will be designed to give a sound general training to rural boys and to fit them in some measure at once for their agricultural occupations. The course will accordingly contain some such subject as Rural Science which in the Punjab is a composite subject embracing agricultural science, village sanitation, co-operation and elementary civics. Training classes will be attached to select Middle Vernacular Schools for the purpose of training teachers of the primary schools.

(2) The Middle English stage will cover a period of three years and will be intended for the urban or developed areas. It will lead up to the high stage and be preparatory for it but it will also be self-sufficient enabling those who do not want to proceed to higher general education to proceed instead to a technical or vocational school. The curriculum will be constructed accordingly. With the multiplication of the Middle Vernacular Schools it is believed that the demand for the Middle English Schools will grow less and so there would be scope for reducing the existing number of the Middle English Schools.

(3) A similar view is taken of the high school stage. The suggestion is made that with the changes already proposed it will be possible to reduce the number of high schools, particularly in rural areas, converting some of them into Middle English and Middle Vernacular Schools. It is pointed out that there is at present severe competition owing to the multiplication of schools affecting adversely the income from fees as well as discipline and efficiency, and precluding the Government from making adequate grants-in-aid.

(4) It is significant that Government recognise that as the result of these proposals "boys from the country will often be at a disadvantage in pursuing higher studies." This difficulty is sought to be removed by the provision of a larger number of free studentships (in addition to the usual scholarships) on the results of the primary and middle school examinations.

(5) As regards the training of teachers for the secondary schools, since the establishment of more Teachers' Training Colleges will be an expensive affair, it is proposed to introduce the system of "Training Camps", where short courses of training will be offered to teachers in individual subjects under the supervision of Training College staffs. These courses might be preparatory to taking a degree in teaching.

(6) Suggestions are made further for equipping every school with a plot of land for some form of agricultural or horticultural work. It is believed that every school will be helped in this respect by local benefactors. Similarly, the schools may provide training in some instructive craft or vocation, not so much for preparing the pupils for a vocation in life as for training their intelligence and educating their senses.

(7) For preparing the pupils for some vocation, it is proposed to follow the latest educational opinion that such training is best given in

separate schools. For this it is pointed out that there is at present a definite scheme for vocational training in Bengal, consisting of junior and senior technical schools. In fact there would be three grades of technical or vocational schools in the future corresponding to the three stages of general education.

(8) Among the miscellaneous proposals is one that seeks to make one or two teachers in every school responsible for having the boys medically examined from time to time and for maintaining a register for the purpose, and another for the provision, with the help of the public, of village halls and libraries as centres of rural community life.

It will be seen from the above that the proposals of the Government will have in a considerable measure a retrograde and restrictive effect. Both Middle English and High English Schools will have to be severely reduced in number according to the terms of the Government Resolution. This would mean a withdrawal from the public life of Bengal a great liberalising influence which English education has so far represented. The removal of the high schools from the rural to the urban centres will amount to a denial of higher education in the arts and the sciences to many in the countryside who will have, due to the initial want of resources to concern themselves wholly with village crafts or agriculture in addition to an elementary knowledge of certain subjects provided by the Middle Schools. The position of a number of free-studentships would hardly meet the situation.

It is also a debatable point as to whether the question of dual control is really obstructing the rationalization of our educational system and whether the only way of solving the problem of duality is to take over secondary education from the heads of the University and place it in the hands of a separate Board whose constitution is still a matter to be decided. It has been suggested in more than one greater that one of the primary purposes for this transference of control is to make it easier for the imposition of an effective system of Government control over the schools through grants-in-aid helped by a Board the members of which will largely be nominated by the Department of Education, or at any rate, in which the Department will have the predominant say. On this point, the public whose support the Ministry of Education seek to enlist have still to be satisfied.

As regards the question of cost, it is evident that the scheme must succeed or fail as a whole. Yet many important parts of the scheme depend on the provision of adequate funds which the Resolution fails to assure us would be available; while in respect of many others, the public are sought to be fed on pious anticipations. Then, again, there is the moot question of compensating the University for the loss of its income due to withdrawal of the Matriculation Examination from its control. Will the exchequer of the Bengal Government, one wonders, be able to meet these charges?

Judged from all these points of view it is clear that the Resolution cannot be accepted by the public unless the proposals made therein are drastically modified and certain points which have been kept vague made clear.



## Some Aspects of Zemindars' Problems

BY SURJA PRASANNA BAJPAI CHOWDHURY.

INDIA is a predominantly agricultural country and one of the largest of such countries in the world. Land is regarded here as the "Goddess of wealth" (भूमि लक्ष्मी). Every one who has a bit of land performs every year वासुपूजा or the worship of land. The Indians hold the land so sacred that they worship the land before they perform any religious ceremony or any customary rite.

Before the advent of the British rule, almost the entire body of Indians derived their incomes from land. With the spread of English education the people gradually became enamoured of services. They wanted to serve as clerks on a monthly pittance with the result that they did not,—nay, could not, take care of their lands as their ancestors did and eventually landholding as the only means of subsistence or as a source of subsidiary income ceased to be profitable. For the time the English-knowing men had not much difficulty in finding jobs under the Government or in mercantile firms. But now the number of such people is increasing by leaps and bounds and the Government and mercantile offices cannot absorb in their services even a fraction of them. Unemployment, the most serious problem of the world, has raised its head in India. The situation, as is now widely known, would have been far less ugly and embarrassing if this education had not been purely literary and had a fair measure of vocational bias. It is a hopeful sign that, following a general recognition of this fact, attempts are being made of late by both public and private agencies to reform our educational system and place it on a sound footing.

What immediately concerns us is that many landholders, like the rest of their countrymen, have developed a craze for English education and do not think it worth their while to learn properly the science and art of zamindari management. Without belittling in any way the importance of English education, even of the type that is imparted in our schools, in the present-day conditions of our country, one may rightly hold that in this the zemindars have been showing a lamentable lack of the sense of proportions and acting in a way which is prejudicial to their best interests. It should have occurred to them that many among their ancestors carved out zamindaries or made valuable additions to their inherited portions without claiming even a smattering of English or any literary edu-

tion at all. The knowledge of zemindari management is something very much different from literary education acquired in schools and colleges but not the less difficult to master on that account. Rather anyone who has ever attempted to gain a working knowledge of the same, will attest to the fact that it is far from easy, being one to be learnt in the practical school of estate management. I would not have stressed the point so much had I not been convinced of the supreme importance of such education to the scions of zemindari houses. Should not the estates big and small, passing one after into the hands of the Court of Wards open their eyes? Is it pleasing to reflect on zemindars contemplating to hand over their estates to the Court for management to be declared "disqualified proprietors" and be branded with the stigma of incompetence?

I am not unaware of the fact that there are other things besides lack of proper training in zemindari management which may be held responsible for the present plight of the zemindars. The prevailing agricultural depression leading to catastrophic decline in the price of agricultural produce has hit hard the primary producers and through them the landlords. This has led to zemindars' inability to meet their commitments in the shape of rent, revenue and interest on personal or ancestral debts. The situation is serious, but the very seriousness of it should set us furiously exploring all possible ways of easing or remedying it. I have not the least doubt that in the scale of remedies the training I have alluded to will naturally occupy the pre-eminent place.

Other remedies have been suggested. It is said that an attempt must be made to increase the supply of agricultural products, particularly food-stuffs, to meet the needs of an increased population by the adoption of up-to-date scientific methods of cultivation, by the use of better manure, seeds, implements etc., by the provision of irrigational facilities, by the consolidation of holdings through agreement or legislation so as to make capitalistic or large scale farming possible. Better distribution should be ensured by better marketing arrangements and improvement of means of communication and transport. Arrangements should be made to supply adequate finance to the agriculturists for carrying on all seasonal or ordinary agricultural operations. Indebtedness of both landlords and tenants has assumed serious proportions and has been hampering agricultural improvement in a variety of ways: remedies thereof must be sought in ampler provisions of long term credit and the formulation of well-conceived schemes of debt conciliation and even debt cancellation.

These and various other remedies have fortunately been engaging the attention of the Government and the public including, of course, a few zemindars here and there. But the crucial point is the execution of the schemes when opinion all over the country is practically unanimous on their suitability and desirability. Here the Government have their share of responsibility: so also have the zemindars. Anyone who has some knowledge of the state of things that obtained in the past in our country-side need not be reminded that the zemindars of those days were really the

leaders, the *Ma Bap* of the rural people and held, so to speak, the destinies of the latter in their hands. Conditions have vastly changed ; but it is untrue to say that the former relations between zemindars and their tenants—the village folk, are nowhere to be found. Why should not the zemindars strive to see that the former relations are restored and why should not others, particularly the Government who have received loyal support from them on all occasions, help them in that matter ? When there is so much talk in the country about planning our agricultural improvement and village uplift, why should the zemindaries not be made units or centres of work and the zemindars not be called upon to see to the execution of the schemes, properly assisted, of course, by a number of Government Departments—such as those of Agriculture, Education, Public Health, etc.? Should the zemindars in the present state of things remain passive on-lookers, suffer the work of village uplift to be done by others and thus be usurped virtually of their own *business*? I put it to them in all earnestness if such an attitude would improve their position. Should they not come forward now and propose to shoulder the responsibilities of working the schemes of agricultural and rural improvement which are being sponsored by the Government and others in a way befitting their position? And should others be lacking in interest or zeal in the prosecution of their agricultural plans, why should they not have their own schemes which they should be prepared to push even at some sacrifice to themselves? Needless to add that such action as this would be of material help in regaining their former power and prestige. Power is never so well-consolidated as when based on beneficence, and if the zemindars are to recover their lost glories, they must again prove that they are the real benefactors of the people.

A large part of our troubles is due to our unwillingness to face matters which we suspect to be inconvenient or uncomfortable, to shoulder the responsibilities of estate management and lead homely lives in villages. Many of us—generally those who pass their time in merry-making in cities—make light of zemindari management and really flirt with it. How very few among us like our ancestors take pride in *creating* big estates or successfully managing them, or find satisfaction in helping the poor and the needy or delight in establishing institutions of public utility? Men of the type of Maharaja Suryya Kanta Acharya Choudhury, Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nundy, Maharajadhiraja Rameswar Singh, and the late Maharaja of Viziangram, and ladies like Janhavi Choudhurani and Rajlakshmi Devi have become now a rarity. How ably they managed their vast properties, how finely they blended firmness with leniency, practical sense and shrewdness with idealism and benevolence ought to be an object lesson to the young generation of zemindars many of whom have the benefit of university education but hopelessly lack stamina and the knack of managing property. We know Rabindra Nath Tagore as the cultural ambassador of India and one of the greatest poets of the present age but how many of us know that in his youthful days when he

lived in his Shelidah estate he gave ample proofs of being an ideal zemindar, thoroughly convertant with the land system, kind and sympathetic towards his tenants and capable of bearing the stress and strain incident to a landlord's position.

Instances are not rare where landlords have allowed rent, revenue, interest, etc., to default only to spend money on luxuries, in contesting elections or securing a title or a position in political circles. It is true that some of them have become Executive Councillors or Ministers, but how many of them have *created* estates as their ancestors did ? I know of a landlord in Bengal who spent such a large amount of money in contesting a seat in the local Legislative Council that he became heavily indebted. He failed in the election and died shortly after. Many people said that the failure hastened his end. I know, again, of a decorated landlord in the United Provinces who spent a large sum of money in making *tadbir* for becoming a minister. He too failed and died suddenly. Such instances can be easily multiplied but I think they are too widely known to need multiplication here.

Now how to improve our lot ? The landlords and tenants should make it their foremost duty to devote their whole time and energy for the improvement of agriculture. Both of them should remain in the villages and accustom themselves to live in their ancient seat of living. The landlords should always try to win the confidence and sympathy, esteem and love of their tenantry by helping them as best as they can. They should try to revive the old village industries and set up factories and mills if their funds permit. They should also start small loan offices for the benefit of the tenant. The Court of Wards' help should not be sought where there are no minors and the Certificate system should be popularised. Litigation is ruinous and should not be encouraged. Big talks and shadowy idealism should be eschewed.

In every district and sub-division landholders' associations should be started. A bill to stop fragmentation of permanent tenures and estates should be introduced in every provincial Council forthwith. Another bill to make an estate or a permanent tenure yielding an income of Rs. 5,000 and upwards impartible, should be introduced in Council to get it passed.

Lastly I would appeal to all old and experienced zemindars of the province to put their heads together at this juncture in order to find a solution of the numerous vexatious problems that confront them as a community.



## Zemindars and Agriculture

BY RAI BADRIDAS TULSHAN BAHDUR.

TIME was when zemindars in Bengal were regarded as the natural guardians of the people. In fact, in the common parlance of the peasantry, they were called the *Ma Bap* of their people. They lived in the villages and were in close touch with their tenants. They acted as

arbiters in all the title disputes of the raiyats and saved the poor people from the ruinous expenses of litigation. True that in addition to rent, they were in the habit of realising money from the tenants in various other ways, but instead of hoarding their wealth or spending it solely for purposes of self gratification, they spent a large part of it for advancing the moral and material well being of the people. To the Hindu zemindars of those days, the excavation of tanks and wells, the construction of roads and the planting of trees along them, the establishment and maintenance of schools, temples and *Atithisalas* or guest houses



Rai Badridas Tulshan Bahadur

were among the sacred duties of life and they mostly used to perform these duties with a zeal which can never be too highly praised. But for their love of religion, public-spiritedness and munificence, the condition of the villages would have been far worse than now and, to my mind, it appears doubtful if there would have been so many educational and other institutions of public utility in the province.

Unfortunately, however, many things have combined to change the whole face of Bengal. The zemindars can no longer take the same prominent part in rural welfare work as their forefathers did and many of them have practically left their ancestral homes. The once smiling

villages of the province now mostly present a dreary and deserted appearance. Deadly diseases like malaria, cholera, small pox, to name only a few among the many terrible scourges from which the people suffer, break out every year and decimate the people. More than 80 per cent of the people are said to be dependant for their living more or less on agriculture but the agriculturists, whether tenure-holders or cultivators of the soil, hardly get enough from the land to keep body and soul together from one harvesting season to another. The cottage industries have all been ruined and for a considerable part of the year the agriculturists remain unemployed and find no means of supplementing their little income from the land. Where is the wonder that health and plenty no longer cheer the labouring swains and they are steeped in debt and look like wrecks of human beings, clothed in tatters and housed in miserable hovels? The Banking Enquiry Committee estimated the total debt of the agricultural population of Bengal to be not less than one hundred crores. The price of agricultural commodities has fallen abnormally low since then and it can be reasonably apprehended that their burden of debt has become heavier still.

The cultivators of the soil, the producers of the chief necessities of life, are undoubtedly the backbone of human society, and if the backbone breaks, society cannot be expected to stand. The miserable economic condition of the cultivators has told heavily upon the economic condition of the zemindars. Very few among them are now in a position to stand with their heads erect. Many are over head and ears in debt and the estates of many have been sold during the past three or four years for failing to pay Government revenue in time. The decline in the export of raw materials to foreign countries owing partly to the world-wide economic depression and partly to the growth of economic nationalism and the consequent fall in the prices of agricultural commodities, made it impossible for the raiyats to pay their rent to the zemindars either in time or in full and this is said to be the reason underlying the zemindars' failure to pay land revenue. It is regrettable that having enjoyed profits for generations past, they should have been financially so weak as to be unable to tide over the difficulties of a few lean years, but it is not the purpose of this article to discuss that point.

The economic depression does not, however, seem to be a passing phase. It has already remained long and yet there is no sign visible of an early return of the good old days. The economic situation is indeed not yet very reassuring and it has already led writers and thinkers in all countries to draw public attention to the need of reorganising the entire social and economic structure of the world. In our country the relation between the zemindars and raiyats is no longer as cordial and happy as it was before. The zemindars, with of course a few exceptions, live away from their ancestral homes and are no longer looked upon as the fathers of their people. We often hear of no-rent campaigns, the Kisan movement, the nationalisation of zemindaries etc, to remove what is called the iniquity in the distribution of national wealth. Large inheritances are

now said to breed idleness and check enterprise to the serious detriment of the moral and material well-being of society. There was a time and that not many years ago, when the extension of the Permanent Settlement to every province was advocated by the leaders of the country. Now it is looked upon by many with disfavour. In fact, the principles of socialism have caught the imagination of a considerable section of the people, have brought about a potent revolution in their thoughts and have kindled the flame of new aspirations in the social, political and economic sphere. It will be out of place to discuss here the merits and demerits of those principles but undoubtedly they ought to supply food for serious reflection to our decadent landed aristocracy. It is time that they took the warning and set to work in right earnest to put their own houses in order on the principle that God helps those who help themselves.

There can be no two opinions that the growing poverty of the people is chiefly responsible for the present unrest in the country. As a great English philosopher has said, of all rebellions, the rebellion of the belly is the worst. Unless its material cause is removed by all possible means, the wound will bleed inwards and engender malign ulcers. Thanks to the far-sighted statesmanship of the present Governor of Bengal, His Excellency Sir John Anderson, laudable efforts are being made by his Government to improve the economic condition of the people. But the zemindars also have a duty to do in this matter in the interests of their own selves as well as in those of their tenants. The problem is a vast one and if it is to be solved satisfactorily, every one, and particularly the zemindars, must make a suitable contribution towards its solution. The zemindars must exert themselves heart and soul to bring back prosperity to their tenants and thereby regain their former position and status.

Generally speaking, the solution of the problem lies in the rapid industrialisation of the country, in other words, in developing the existing industries, in establishing new ones, in the revival of cottage industries and thereby in extending trade and commerce. This, to my mind, includes the development of agriculture also as it is the chief industry of Bengal. If agriculture no longer suffices to give our people enough to live, it is due partly to the fragmentation of holdings which has resulted from the inheritance laws of the country and partly to the primitive method of our cultivating the land. Whereas in the Western countries, they are making the land yield better and larger crops of various kinds every year, in our country we are content with following the method of our ancestors of prehistoric days and are absolutely dependant on the vagaries of the clouds. It may be argued that improvement of agriculture will necessarily result in overproduction, far in excess of the world demand for raw materials for industrial purposes, and consequently in a further fall in the price level. But by development of agriculture I do not mean simply improving and increasing the production of the principal crops like jute or paddy, over the present level, but a complete reorientation and readjustment of the productive forces so as to enable the production of a variety

of crops of a superior quality at a cheap cost. The necessity and importance of making the country self-contained industrially has been thoroughly realised by our countrymen and new industries are gradually coming into existence, though indeed the progress is slow. It is not unreasonable to expect that the easy availability of good raw materials, coupled with the growing inclination of our countrymen to support indigenous industries even at a sacrifice, will encourage the starting of many new industries for which the country possesses natural advantages. Cottage industries will also come into existence and grow and the necessity of importing food stuffs from foreign countries will disappear. If there remains a surplus after the requirements of the country, both for industrial purposes and for home consumption, have been met, the exportable surplus only will have to be set apart for foreign customers, and for that surplus quantity there will be no lack of demand from foreign countries if we can sell at competitive prices. It will not be out of place to mention in this connection that food stuffs are not always exported from our country with due regard to the country's requirements and the result is that the country becomes the dumping ground for the surplus produce of foreign countries. This cannot but have an injurious effect upon the agricultural development of the country and judging from that point of view also, it is essential that agriculture should be so developed as to make it truly an integral part of the social, industrial and commercial life of the country.

Who is better qualified or better able to take this national work in hand than the zemindars? In spite of all that is said or done against them, they are still held in high esteem in the villages and can safely count upon the support and co-operation of their people if they can formulate schemes which will benefit not only themselves but their tenants as well. It is high time that our zemindars put their heads together to concert suitable measures for the purpose. In my opinion, they would do well to take a leaf out of the book of foreign countries like Canada, Australia etc., where the development of agriculture, carried out by well-concerted organisations with the help of science and the machine, has resulted in great improvement in the condition of the people. It need hardly be said that there are many difficulties in the way of independent individual enterprises proving successful.

If our zemindars will turn their attention to the development of agriculture on these lines, I believe not only will they be able before long to retrieve their lost position but also to bring the problem of the economic recovery of their provinces much nearer solution. It will banish idleness, mitigate the severities through which the mass of the people are passing and rehabilitate the countryside.

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## Sir Harry Haig—the Man

By L. N. SARIN, B.A.

A luminous and sparkling conversationalist one is both instructed and interested while he listens to him. The turn of his mind is to brevity and point as he knows that brevity is the soul of wit. Mr. Darwin said of Mr. Gladstone that "he talked just as if he had been an ordinary person like one of ourselves." Those who have had occasions to meet Sir Harry Haig either in an evening party or in some other social function would say of him what Mr. Dawrwin said of Mr. Gladstone. Like all great men he is unconscious of his greatness. Of snobbishness he has none. A man of simple tastes Sir Harry's geniality of temper and his courteous demeanour have made him very popular in society. Though scrupulously observant of the rules of social life Sir Harry never adopts an attitude of superiority towards those who suffer from inferiority complex. It is a great education to see him giving the best he has to everybody alike in a social gathering. His stately simplicity charms all those who see him in private. "Adding to his grace of manner a memory of extraordinary strength and quickness and an amazing vivacity and variety of mental force anyone can understand how fascinating Sir Harry must be in Society."

As a man Sir Harry is free from all those baser instincts that we find in great abundance all around us. With all the caution that he brings to his task he is by nature unsuspecting, inclined to respect all men as honest unless he finds strong reasons to the contrary. He is too magnanimous to be vindictive, and though as firm as a rock, he never bears malice even towards his malicious opponents. He exerts himself to his utmost to score a victory and defeat, if and when it falls to him, he accepts with good humour. The unscrupulous tactics and mean gerrymanderings of his less desirable critics do not embitter him and he is too completely self-composed to be betrayed into angry words.

Sir Harry's temper worthy of a fine nature is beautifully free from all malice and rancour. He is cast in too large a mould to have narrow-mindedness or "ruffled vanity" or to abuse his greatness and predominance by treating anyone as an inferior. His manners are easy, charming and majestic. His intellectual generosity is of a piece with his general large-heartedness. Like Gladstone he always acknowledges his indebtedness to those who help him in any piece of useful work.

Magnanimity of heart is a rare thing to be found in a Governor of a Province. Sir Malcolm Hatley had it in great abundance, but it is the finest trait of Sir Harry's character. Always open to convictions he is ever ready to make very great allowance for human foibles and weaknesses. Conscientious, upright and outspoken Sir Harry has always maintained a vast amplitude of view and never stooped to beguile the people by appealing to sordid instincts. True to himself he cannot and has never been false to any man.

"An honest man is still an unmoved rock,  
Washed wither, but not shaken with the shock :  
Whose heart conceives no sinister device,  
Fearless he plays with flames and treads on ice."

--Davenport.



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## India's Case before International Labour Conference

**M**R V. M. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Indian Workers' Delegate to the 19th session of International Labour Conference delivered an illuminating address on 13th June last. He laid great emphasis among others on two things : (1) the need of a change of outlook of the European countries and a due recognition by them of the growing industrialization of Asiatic countries in general and of India in particular and (2) the vital need of a Planned Economy for India under the control of the Government of India benefits accruing from which would be shared by every section of the population. He said :

"While the problems of the older industrialised countries has received full consideration at the hands of the Director, International Labour Office, in his annual report for 1934, I feel constrained to say that the special conditions and circumstances which beset the activities of the more recent entrants into the industrial field have not received the attention that is due to them. The industrialisation of countries like Japan, China and my own, though of recent origin, has become a factor to be taken into account in estimating the world's economic situation, and we should have appreciated the office acquainting itself more thoroughly with the special problems which confront us.

"Pride of place in the report is given to the efforts made by the various countries to combat unemployment, which is beyond question the greatest social problem of the age. These efforts have ranged from collectivism to State codes. Even though the crucial issue of to-day is not so much increased production as increased consumption, still the development of industries has to be regarded as one of the ways of reducing unemployment, at least within the national frontiers of each country.

"We in India have made some progress in the expansion of industries, although this has been due more to private enterprise than to active State help. I may take this opportunity to point out that we Indians consider it of vital importance that the agricultural and industrial resources of our country should be rapidly developed, as our incredible poverty makes economic development an essential item in our programme for the future. This desire to improve our system of production, and to make the most of what nature has given us, is not born of a narrow, aggressive and doctrinaire nationalism, but is the outcome of an imperative economic necessity. I have taken some pains to make this point, because India is no longer prepared to tolerate the older dispensation under which she had to continue to sell her raw produce and absorb the manufactured goods of other countries. We should like the International Labour Organisation to take due note of this tendency, and to study the problem which would be created by the shrinkage of the Indian market, at least for those classes of commodities which are now being produced in our own country. Unless this factor is constantly borne in mind, the efforts to bring about economic balance and harmony between the various countries of the world would be endangered, and it is to avoid future dislocations that I have ventured to suggest the necessity for a closer study of the economic conditions and circumstances of the countries which are now on the threshold of industrialisation.

"My friend, the Indian Employers' Delegate has in his address indicated to you what the employers expect the Government of India to do in the matter of our economic regeneration. With those expectations, the workers of India are in complete sympathy, and we are prepared to extend to them our wholehearted support. A development of the State's activities in this direction will be welcomed by the workers of India, since we feel that the increased national dividend thus accruing will help them towards better wages, and enable them to live fuller lives. We are therefore in agreement with the Indian employers in requesting our Government, not merely to confine itself to its primary task of being the guardian of peace and order, but to launch out on those lines of socially beneficent activity, of which the leading western countries are such good examples, and to become the creator of national wealth and prosperity. We are glad that the Director has repeatedly pointed out that social programmes are inevitably bound up with economic and financial problems, and that they cannot be dealt with compartmentally. It is for this reason that I would invite the International Labour Office to study in somewhat greater detail the economic position in India and in other Asiatic countries."

"Further, considering that agriculture still continues to be the main, and in many cases the sole occupation of many millions in Asiatic countries and that anything calculated to improve their conditions and increase their purchasing power would affect beneficially not only the populations concerned but the entire world, a special study of the conditions of agricultural work in these countries might usefully be undertaken. There is a complaint not without justification, that agriculture has become the Cinderella of the International Labour Organisation, and an enquiry of this character would go a long way to meet that accusation."

"Another special type of enquiry that is long overdue is in regard to hours, wages and working conditions of the operatives in the textile industries of India, China and Japan.

"There is another point about India to which I should like to draw the attention of this Assembly. We have in India large territories ruled over by Indian Princes, where by some curious anomaly, the writ of the International Labour Organisation does not seem to run. In several such States, trade union activity is taboo, and to make matters worse there is no social code at all comparable to what exists in British India. It is important - from the point of view of both employers and workers in British India - that the workers in the Indian States should be given the same rights as regards association and social protection as exist in British India. That India's membership of the League of Nations Organisation means membership of both British India and the Indian States has been made clear on more than one occasion. And yet the Indian States seem unwilling to incur the reciprocal obligation of having to honour the Geneva Conventions."

In the course of the speech Mr. Mudaliar stressed the necessity of convening an Asiatic consultative conference with a view to acquaint the International Labour Organization with the actual economic position in India and other Asiatic countries and to enable it to study more carefully the problems that have been raised by increasing industrialisation of India and other Asiatic countries.

A due and prompt recognition of these problems and a closer study of them than has hitherto been the case, are necessary if the stable and harmonious relationship between the newer and older industrial countries is not to be endangered.

"Two questions that have recently cropped up have strengthened the case for such a joint consultation. A few weeks ago, while the British Parliament was considering the question of granting a subsidy to British shipping, the Labour Party in the House of Commons seems to have supported a motion that such subsidy should be conditional on the exclusion of Asiatic seamen from employment on British ships. It is most regrettable that such an attitude has been forced upon the Labour Party

in the House of Commons, especially in view of the fact that India has given a virtual monopoly to British shipping as regards its postal, trade and passenger traffic. Apart from the liberal and exclusive patronage they receive from the Indian Government, Indian commercial and other interests have always been among the most faithful clients of British shipping. The other question relates to the recruitment of labour, especially from Asiatic countries—a topic with which you are all sufficiently familiar and on which I hope to have another opportunity of addressing the Conference.

"One of the outstanding points brought out in the Director's Report is that the crisis had led to the extensive development of economic planning even in countries which have, nominally at least, continued to pay homage to the old economic doctrine of *laissez-faire*. The starting of industries on national lines, the manipulation of currencies, the adoption of preferences, tariffs and quotas to foster and encourage national economic development, and more comprehensive schemes for controlling the lives of the workers by State regulation of wages and conditions of labour—these have been some of the methods adopted to bring about national economic recovery. In my own country, I regret to say, there has till now been no attempt at any deliberate or comprehensive planning for the future."

"May I suggest to the Finance Member to the Government of India to take a more comprehensive view of the country's situation and so to co-ordinate the entire economic activities of the country under the control of the Government that the benefits accruing from his new policies would be shared by every section of the population and that as an immediate measure of relief to the unemployed a scheme of public works, besides roads and railways, should be taken up? My humble experience in my part of the country emboldens me to suggest the imperative necessity of revitalising and reviving these Indian villages, and a preliminary step will consist in remedying the chronic shortage of pure drinking water under which they labour. Another scheme of equal importance is a house-building scheme in all cities and towns, so as to provide the labour class with decent accommodation on reasonable terms, and ultimately for them to own the same. With the high credit that the Indian Government commands, these projects can be financed from a loan fund that could be floated on a cheap market within India. Should the Government of India feel itself perplexed by a complex situation like the present, it should take the aid of a small representative body of experts or of an industrial council something on the lines suggested by the report of the Royal Commission on Labour in India, and to this body the entire task of planning and execution should be entrusted. Here, as in Charity, he who gives quickly gives twice."

"We are entirely in favour of increased State regulation of industries, and the only proviso we should insist upon is that the resulting benefit should be truly national and not merely sectional."

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# The Bengal Development Bill

LEGALLY EXAMINED

BY SACHIN SEN, M.A., B.L.,  
*Advocate, Calcutta High Court.*

**T**HREE is much ado about the Bengal Development Bill. Promise has been boastfully held out by the Hon'ble Irrigation Member that the Bill, when enacted, will make the moribund areas of the Delta fertile and healthy. If the promise materialises, as we are aware it will not, the people of Bengal will be beholden to the Hon'ble Member, though they know that there will be no occasion for it. But as a student of law I cannot but view with grave apprehensions the repurcussions of the Development Bill on the Bengal Tenancy Act. The preamble to the Bill says that it is a Bill for development of lands and people may naturally presume that there is no attempt to interfere with the tenancy legislation of the province.

First, the Bill contemplates that arrears of improvement levy will be recoverable as public demands. It means that arrears thereof will not be permitted and that they will be realised with all the rigours of certificate procedure. Under the Tenancy Act, agricultural rent which is a first charge on land is permitted to be defaulted for a pretty length of time and arrears of rent are to be realised through the dilatory procedure of civil court. Thus the Bill relegates rent to the background and throws improvement levy in the forefront. It will indirectly affect Sec. 65 of the B. T. Act and directly affect the customary and legal rights and contractual obligations of landlords in respect of their ryots.

Secondly, the Bill provides for a levy on *salami*. The B. T. Act recognises *salami* and if it is subjected to taxation, it clearly interferes with the vested rights of landlords. Payment of *salami* is in fact a recognition of the proprietary rights of landlords over their lands and if that source is made to yield revenue to the public exchequer, it is a case of asking for further revenue from landlords for owning lands.

Thirdly, the Bill specifically provides that in the notified area any stipulation for an enhanced rate of rent with the ryot will not be valid. This will make sections 83 and 34 of the B. T. Act inoperative in respect of landlords within the notified area. It was beyond the competence of the Bill to touch tenancy legislation in such a direct manner but it has done so in contravention of the fundamental rights of landlords. These enhancement clauses of the B. T. Act are intimately intertwined with the proprietary character of landlords, guaranteed by the Settlement of 1793, and the Development Bill by making inroads on the Tenancy legislation

is contemplating a conflicting situation, positively harmful for the landlords.

Fourthly, the improvement levy as contemplated hereunder is a case of touching the land direct for state purposes. The cesses and other local rates on land have one justification that they are utilised for the benefit of the local areas. There is no provision in the Development Bill which guarantees that the improvement levy when realised will not be diverted to other channels and chocked up in the sands of bureaucratic incompetence. Even if it is found that the people of the Damodar area pay improvement levy on a rate which is remunerative to Government and the receipts thereof are utilised for certain works in Jessore, that is also unfair and unjustifiable.

It will be interesting to observe in this connection that this is not the first time that a levy is contemplated to be imposed on profits from land. Except the Income Tax Act of 1860 which was a temporary measure and which included agricultural income within the scope of its operation, the Road Cess Act of 1871 was the first serious attempt to interfere with the incomes of landlords and tenants. It is known that in 1870 reference was made to the Duke of Argyll, the then Secretary of State for India, for settling the wisdom or otherwise of the imposition of road cess in Bengal. The India Council by a majority of one voted in favour of road cess and the famous despatch of the Duke of Argyll in 1870 clearly stated that cess was justified because it was a rating for local expenditure and as such it was separate and distinct from ordinary land revenue.\* But in the matter of improvement levy as contemplated in the Development Bill, no assurance is held out by the Government that the levy will be a rating for local expenditure and in that case it is a direct inroad on the vested rights of ryots. The ryots have definite rights, founded on custom and contract and those rights are clearly interfered with when they are asked to pay certain taxes for which they were not prepared to pay at the time of contract. The rights of ryots are protected by the Tenancy Act and in this case the Government by amputating the rights of ryots have gone beyond their power.

From a constitutional standpoint, the ryots are subordinate to or partners of landlords and it is only on the strength of clause 1, section 8 of Regulation I of 1793 that Government can interfere in the relation of landlords and tenants "for the protection and welfare" of the latter as against the oppressions of the former. The Development Bill which contemplates Government interference with the rights and obligations of the ryots is thus *ultra vires*. The vested rights of the ryots are trampled under the Bill, the Tenancy Act is torn into shreds, the irresponsible nature of Government is brought into prominence, and the plighted word of Government is broken. It is a bad lesson for the Government to teach and for the people to learn.

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\* The constitutional implications of taxation of profits from agricultural land are exhaustively dealt with in my book "Studies in the Land Economics of Bengal."

# Rural Uplift

BY S. L. NARASIAH.

## THE PANCHAYAT

**P**ROPERLY organized and directed it is capable of great expansion with high potentialities of useful work. The word has lost its original meaning and significance. It now refers to a body of five or less persons that merely exercise little judicial powers. It was the original village council or Sangha—a representative body consisting of 30 or more members elected from the different castes. According to the requirements of the locality it was divided into a number of committees each in charge of one department.

It can be revived and organized, and each committee entrusted with duties and functions in the light of changed conditions of modern village life. One committee may look after sanitation, the construction and maintenance of streets and drains, a second after the construction and upkeep of tanks and channels, a third after animals, their diseases and pastures, a fourth after seeds, pests, and manures and a fifth after industries, and marketing and so forth. New facilities for supply of water from tanks or canals can better be handled by co-operation than by individual effort. Pumping sets, the maintenance of which is beyond the financial reach of any single farmer, can be jointly maintained for the whole village or special portion thereof. Again, in the matter of popularizing fine varieties of seeds, manures, or in the matter of encouraging and assisting weaving, spinning, dyeing, poultry-farming and corporate marketing, special committees of the Panchayat enjoy a natural advantage, and can do better work than any body public or private.

## CO-OPERATION

In the uplift of rural India it is to play an all important part and that in a variety of ways. No country so sorely needs and none has so congenial a field for co-operative development as India. Though fully developed in modern time the seeds of co-operation were visible long ago in the social fabric of India, in the Joint family system and in the custom in villages of helping one another financially or otherwise in times of distress, flood, fire or famine. Except putting the farmer in possession of funds and that not adequately, co-operation has not made great headway in any direction. As yet co-operation has not been able to make

its power and prestige felt. A spirit of distrust, and a love of selfish gain characterize those that now fill its fold. Real co-operation has no place for any such. If things are to change for the better, there must be a thorough change in outlook and methods of the champions of co-operation. The morale of the middleman, who now controls and manipulates trade, must improve or he is to vacate the line for better men with a higher and nobler purpose. In the attainment of the object the educated youth specially trained by a competent staff may be of use. Improvement of agricultural implements, manures, seeds and a deal of such valuable work cannot be done better by any other. With the help of building societies co-operation enables the farmer to have better housing accommodation. The construction and maintenance of tanks, irrigation channels, tube wells are not easy of achievement without it. Co-operative Societies and Land Mortgage Banks have, as we will see, a great part to play in the economic regeneration of the people.

Without good living good farming is a body without a soul. The organization of better living societies is a noteworthy feature of this movement in the Punjab. The plan is so popular that classes and castes work at it. Since their advent people are trying to reform their ways. Temperance is enjoined, sale of girls forbidden, and expenditure on ceremonies restricted. Non-compliance with the rules passed is attended with the imposition of a fine. The movement has become a moral and educative force of great value to the people. It makes 'the improvident thrifty, the reckless careful, the drunkard sober, the evil-doer well-conducted and the unlettered capable of using the pen.'

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## Landholders and Politics

BY M. C. RANGASWAMY.

THE new Constitution is now almost a settled fact and it will be introduced in this country before another twelve months will have run out notwithstanding the spectacular and denunciatory resolutions passed in the Assembly and some Provincial Councils. Every shade of public opinion in this country, extremist, socialist, communist, moderate, liberal or constitutionalist is dissatisfied to some extent with all or some of the proposals of the Constitution. The various interests which have been closely following the trend of events leading to the present position have begun seriously to think as to what their future will be. Among such people who have been watching the political developments in the country with interest not unmixed with anxiety, the landholders, particularly the zemindars all over India, deserve special mention. A new realisation has now dawned on them that they can no longer remain in the back-waters of political activities, leaving the agitation to be carried on by at least a few of those who have little stake in the country. Time was when the landholders, without serious detriment to their interests, prestige or power could keep themselves aloof from the din and dust of political activities, when such activities mainly consisted of abuse of those in power and ill-considered criticism of every bureaucratic act. But with the transference of power to the representatives of the people, conditions are bound to undergo a very vital change and I hope the landholders and zemindars will not be slow to realise the implications of such a change so far as they are concerned.

Two different attitudes, not wholly irreconcilable, are being shown by the landed aristocracy in this country, with reference to the coming reforms. One section of the community demands that the zemindari interest should have the fullest representation in the legislatures and be provided with adequate safeguards to prevent any expropriatory legislation being passed in the reformed councils. The other section while equally realising the need for such representations and safeguards and considering such of them as have been provided in the new Constitution to be inadequate, hold that the real safeguard lies in their throwing themselves heart and soul in the work of the new legislative and administrative bodies, in trying to guide the democracy, and in putting themselves in the forefront of all constitutional movements calculated to advance and improve the political status of the people of this unhappy land.

It is true that the latter class is still in a minority, but at the same time it must be recognised that it is a growing class. The rise of this class is to some extent due to the free, frank and sincere advice which has been given from time to time by British Administrators in the various provinces. His Excellency the Viceroy set the example. In reply to a deputation of the landed aristocracy that waited on him in Delhi sometime ago, His Excellency said that the salvation of the landowning classes lies more in identifying themselves with the present political advancement of the country, in their trying to consolidate popular opinion and leading the people themselves than in receding to the background for fear of hostile and irresponsible criticism of the masses and craving for safeguards for screening themselves against any such. Sir Malcolm Hailey, that distinguished Civilian Administrator, who has left an indelible impression both in the Punjab and the United Provinces has repeatedly urged on the landowning classes the need for organization not only among themselves but among the vast population which, despite their sectarian differences, still look upon them as their natural leaders. His Excellency Lord Erskine, Governor of Madras, in one of his recent tours in the province has impressed upon an audience composed of members of the landholding community that the time has come when they should shake off their lethargy and move forward to take their rightful place in the political life of the country. How the landed aristocracy can hold its own against the rising tide of democracy and how in spite of franchise being based on adult suffrage, the landowning classes can command adequate representation has been amply demonstrated in Great Britain by the recent elections to the House of Commons. Sir Henry Lucy, the great memoir writer of the House of Commons, has pointed out that whichever party is in power, the Conservatives or the Liberals, it is only a few aristocratic families that are really in office. In describing one of the numerous Parliaments whose work he has reviewed Sir Henry sarcastically mentions that though the Conservatives have gone out of office and the Liberals have come into power, the front benches are composed only of first cousins and nephews of half a dozen aristocratic families of Great Britain. Every student of the history of the British Parliament would have noted that in the days of Queen Victoria the Good and her immediate predecessors, it was the landlords who ruled the Empire through the House of Lords.

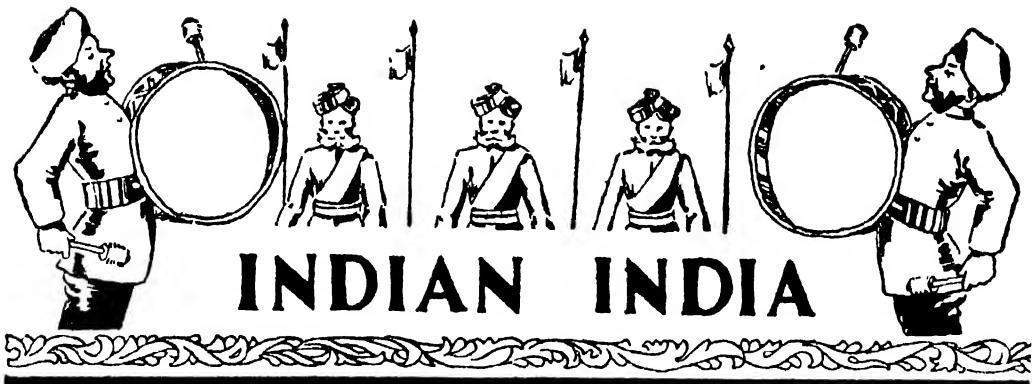
It has been possible for British aristocracy to establish this position because it did not content itself with merely resting on its oars, but it laboured hard to ameliorate its position in politics, to equip its sons fully for the battle of life to enable them to take their proper share in guiding the destinies of the country. If the Salisburys, the Marlboroughs, the Devonsires and other noted aristocratic families of England had brought up their sons in the fond belief that the hoarded wealth of their ancestors would assure and vouch for their continued prosperity, that their sons need not trouble themselves to acquire all the modern knowledge which

could only be acquired by intense industry and trouble, but can afford to be mere lotus-eaters and keep themselves apart from the dinn and heat of political controversies, they would long ago have been wiped out and the political history of England would have been written in a different way and social revolutionaries would have come to play a more prominent part to the detriment not only of themselves but of the country as a whole. I am not one of those who think that the landed aristocracy has monopolised all statecraft either in this country or in England. Far from that being the case, other classes besides aristocracy have produced notables in statemanship as well as in other spheres of activity and it is only creditable for a middle class or poor family to produce an individual who by dint of merit can rise above all depressing circumstances of his social position and play the part of a leader in public affairs. We are all convinced that just as in the past, so in the future, there will spring up many more men of this calibre who will become beacon lights—pillars of cloud by day pillars of fire by night, to their people, will take them from success to success till the natural destiny of their country is attained.

But that does not preclude me from maintaining that the aristocracy in this country can play a prominent and useful part in shaping the political future of this country, can just give that balast for steadyng things which is indispensable in the early years of political development, and thus help itself while promoting the best fnterests of the country. After all the friendly and sane advice tendered by disinterested and experienced men of affairs, it is sincerely believed that the landholders will have no room for complaint that they have been taken unawares by the rising tide of the new democracy. It will be their own folly if in spite of wise counsels and lessons of other countries that are tendered to or placed before them, they fail to enter the arena of politics, there to play their proper part and wield their influence to ensure a steady progress, Conditions in the country assure us that the great bulk of the landed aristocracy, both zemindars and leading ryotwary landholders, are alive to their rights and responsibilities and that they will evince an abiding interest and play an ever-increasing part in shaping its political future.

It is not out of place to mention here that the position of the landed aristocracy in this country is somewhat similar to that of the Conservative Party in England. Noted as they are for their sanity, wisdom and sound judgment, refusing to be carried away by mob oratory and sticking always to a policy of steady and gradual evolution, they have been able to hold their own up to the present day against the swelling tide of socialistic and communistic tendencies in the country.

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## NEPAL

At the annual meeting of the Anti-Slavery Society held last month in London, His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal delivered an address on the methods by which slavery was abolished in Nepal.

His Excellency said that in 1924 there were nearly 60,000 slaves in Nepal and over 15,000 slave owners. The credit for the Act of Emancipation belonged to his uncle, the late Maharajah Chandra Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, who in 1924 demanded that after a certain fixed date the legal status of slavery must cease throughout the Kingdom of Nepal, and said that those owners who required it would receive a statutory price as compensation for the freeing of the slaves they held. To facilitate the reform he earmarked the sum of £500,000. The response to the appeal was remarkable; 4,651 slaves were liberated by their masters without any compensation whatever being claimed. In the result only £275,250 of the £500,000 was absorbed, and to-day slavery had been completely abolished throughout Nepal.

## HYDERABAD

Vigorous preparations are going on for the celebration of H. E. II. the Nizam's Silver Jubilee. An influential Jubilee committee has been working under the presidentship of Maharaja Sir Kishen Pershad Bahadur to make the event worthy in every respect of the great Ruler and the State which has seen unprecedented progress in every branch of its administration during the last twenty-five years of his rule. Although the programme of celebrations has not been published yet, it is understood that an outstanding work of public utility will be established to commemorate the occasion and a souvenir of the leading events of the present regime will be prepared. It has also been arranged to publish the Nizam's poetical works during the celebrations.

The Government have notified their decision to observe the week from December 28 to January 3 next as the Jubilee week and have extended the Id-ul-Fitr holidays by two days to enable the public to participate conveniently in the celebrations. Subscriptions have been called to the Silver Jubilee Fund, but the circular that has been recently issued by the

Political Secretariat makes it clear that they will be voluntary and based entirely on the donor's good will.

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Having selected a site for the installation of a sub-station at Aurangabad, Mr. Syed Mahboob Ali, Director, Government Wireless Department, is, it is reported, proceeding to Europe to study the latest developments in broadcasting in Continental countries with a view to adopt them on his return to Hyderabad.

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With a view to minimising the risks of explosions of fireworks the Hyderabad authorities have issued orders for the regulation of the sale and manufacture of fireworks in the State. No fireworks will henceforth be manufactured or sold without licenses being previously obtained from the City Police Commissioner in Hyderabad City and the Collectors in the Districts. Provision has been made for supervision by the Government of the manufacture and sale of the fireworks, and all intending users of them at religious, social and public functions, with the exception of some nobles and *jagirdars*, will be required to obtain previous permission of the Government.

### **BARODA**

Arrangements are in progress in Baroda to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the rule of His Highness the present Gaekwar in a fitting manner some time during the next winter. An influential Central Jubilee Committee has been formed with Sir V. T. Krishnamachariar as chairman. At a public meeting organised recently in the State, the Dewan said that the uplift of the rural population was the crying need of the day and that, to celebrate the occasion in an appropriate manner, he would suggest a memorial that would stimulate all sides of village life and co-ordinate all activities towards rural improvement and guide the activities of the State in that direction. He hoped that the public of Baroda would help in accomplishing this object by contributing liberally towards the Diamond Jubilee Fund.

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The Baroda Government's review of the administration report of the State Railways for the year ending July 1934, shows that the total length of railways worked by the State was 548 miles out of the total of 707 miles owned by the State, consisting of 21.42 miles of railways 329.55 metre gauze and 355.73 narrow gauze. 52.63 miles of broad gauze were under the management of B. B. C. I. Ry. and Jamnagar Dwarka Railway. The working expenses of the narrow and metre gauzes showed decreases (mainly under administration and operating expenses) of Rs. 1.71 lakhs and 18 lakhs respectively. The gross earnings of the two systems slightly rose without a corresponding rise in traffic owing to revision of

**tariff** : those of the narrow gauze increased from Rs. 23.19 lakhs to Rs. 24.96 lakhs and of the metre gauze from Rs. 20.64 lakhs to Rs. 21.07 lakhs. The net return on capital outlay in the two systems were 3.20 per cent and 6.25 per cent respectively.

Preliminary work on the construction of the Prachi Road-Kodinar extension sanctioned by the Government of India has been completed. The Government proposal to extend the Petlad-Vaso branch from Sojitra to Dholka and the Petlad-Bhadran branch from Bhadran to Goyagate with the conversion of the Sojitra-Bhadran line into a metre gauze system is awaiting Government of India's sanction.

### MYSORE

Three Government Bills—the Mysore Road Traffic and Taxes Bill, the Agriculturists' Relief Regulation Amending Bill and the Cinematograph Regulation Amending Bill, were recently passed in the Mysore Legislative Council.

The Road Traffic and Taxes Bill provides for the constitution of a Road Fund composed of the proceeds of all taxes, fees and tolls levied under this Regulation and the Mysore Motor Vehicles and Mysore Highways Regulations together with such grants as might be made by the Government from time to time and administration of the same by a Board subject to such orders as might be made by the Government from time to time. In regard to motor vehicles taxation the principle followed is to levy a lump sum charge on the seating capacity of the bus and a charge for the use of road mileage in order to secure an equitable distribution of the burden between long distance and short distance buses. For non-pneumatic tyred buses, the Bill prescribes a scale of taxation 50 per cent higher than for corresponding types of vehicles with pneumatic tyres.

The second Bill is intended to remove some difficulties of the creditors which were found to be due to the operation of the Agriculturists' Relief Regulation of 1928. It follows in the main the recommendations of the committee appointed under the chairmanship of Dewan Bahadur K. R. Srinivasa Ayengar to go into the question. In regard to agriculturist debtors, it restricts exemption from attachment and sale to their agricultural lands only. Provision has, however, been made to direct attachment and sale of agricultural land or declare a charge thereon in cases where payment by instalment was ordered and the debtor was unable to furnish security. The sale in pursuance of an attachment or charge would be ordered only when default had been made in the payment of two consecutive instalments.

The third Bill provides for the extension of the existing censorship of films intended for public exhibition to the manner of advertising the films which is often more objectionable than the films themselves. It is gratifying to note that the Mysore Government have forestalled the British Indian in its crusade against the exhibition of indecent or otherwise

objectionable films which so often characterises the operation of cinema show houses.

The Mysore Legislative Council rejected in its recent session the motion to introduce a non-official Bill to prevent child marriages in the State on the same lines as the Sarda Act. The proposal was to prohibit the marriage of a girl below the age of 14 and of a boy under 18.

Whatever opinion might be entertained about this action of the Council, there can be no doubt that the vote correctly recorded the views of the whole House, uninfluenced and unfettered by any considerations save those of the public good. For the Dewan-President, commendably enough, allowed the official members to speak and vote on the measure according to their desire and conscience.

Relying on a statement made by His Highness the Maharaja on the occasion of the inauguration of the reforms, expressing his desire to associate more and more the people with the administration, Mr. G. Channappa recently raised a discussion in the Mysore Legislative Council on the appointment of a non-official member to the State Executive Council. Dewan Bahadur K. Matthan replying for the Government said that the Government were not opposed to such appointment, but when that should be done and who should be appointed must be decided by His Highness. The Dewan Bahadur assured the House that that would be done as soon as suitable opportunity occurred and as soon as possible.

The Government have decided to pursue a policy of gradual abolition of the system of hereditary *Shanbhogs* or village accountants in the State. "While it is a fact" says a Government order issued on the 9th July last, "that honest and faithful service has been rendered in the past by this class of servants, the hereditary *Shanbhogs* are, in a large number of cases, lacking in education, industry and honesty, all of which are so essential for the proper discharge of their duties. With the improvement and growing complexity of administration, it has become increasingly difficult to get adequate work from them."

In a large number of cases the office is registered in the names of minors and the duties are entrusted to temporary *gumastas* whose work is not often up to the mark. Both these practices have by recent orders been stopped. A *hakdar* has only been permitted to resign in favour of the next of kin (who is not a minor) who is qualified and willing to enter on his duties at once. All registered *hakdars* who lived outside the villages and, though fit to discharge their duties, failed to resume them before the 30th June last forfeited their rights. In all cases of forfeiture of hereditary *hak*, it is ordered that arrangements should be made to fill

up the vacancies on temporary basis and by the appointment of stipendiary *Shanbhogs*.

\* \* \* \*

In accordance with their assurance given at the recent session of Mysore Legislative Council, the Mysore Government have passed orders on the report of the Committee appointed by them to inquire into the conditions of the tenants in the *Inam* villages. The tenants in these villages labour under certain disabilities and their rights and privileges are not so well-defined as in the Government villages. The Government order, it is claimed, will improve their position in these respects and place the relation between them and the *Inamdar*s on a better footing. It says *inter alia* that twelve years' continuous occupation is presumptive evidence in support of a tenancy instead of the present rule of twenty years' occupation.

### **KASHMIR**

The Kashmir Government distributed as many as 1,80,000 grafted fruit trees in 1934-35, including 5,563 fruit trees distributed in Jammu Province, 1,200 from Jammu nurseries where the nursery operations have been started only for the last 2 years and 4,363 from Kashmir nurseries. Of these 85.4 per cent were distributed free, 32.2 per cent were sold and 9.4 per cent were transplanted in departmental lands. Of the fruit trees sold 2,119 were exported outside Jammu and Kashmir as against 541 of previous year.

The Agricultural Department have during the past year systematically published catalogue of seeds, bulbs, ornamental plants, fruit trees etc., and to this is attributed the success that has attended it, particularly in regard to the marketing of the fruit trees. The transplantation of fruit trees has served the purpose of a demonstration to zemindars in the laying of fruit orchards.

### **TRAVANCORE**

The Travancore State Budget for 1935-36 was introduced on July 17 at a joint session of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Travancore Legislature. The revenue for the year is estimated at Rs. 242.16 lakhs and expenditure at Rs. 249.12 lakhs, leaving a revenue deficit of Rs. 6.96 lakhs.

The revised figures for the current year showed a revenue of Rs. 233.44 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 232.95 lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. .49 lakhs against the estimated surplus of Rs. 2.95 lakhs.

A capital programme of considerable size is revealed by the next year's budget. It includes the Pallivasal hydro-electric project at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 35 lakhs (of which Rs. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ .7 lakhs have already been spent) which is expected to be completed next year. Commercial undertakings, namely, the rubber factory and the proposed clay refining

factory at Trivandrum, would absorb nearly Rs. 4 lakhs, while Rs 7 lakhs had been allotted for the Trivandrum town planning scheme, including the Rs. 1½ lakhs mentioned earlier, and nearly Rs. 11 lakhs for the Trivandrum drainage and water works schemes. Rs. 2½ lakhs have been allotted for next year's expenditure on the water-supply schemes for Nagercoil, Shencottah and Alleppey and Rs. 1½ lakhs to start a comprehensive scheme of telephonic installation connecting Nagercoil in South Travancore through Trivandrum and Quilon with Alleppey and extension of the Pallivasal line.

The schemes under expenditure charged to revenue include the State library system, the inauguration of industrial art courses in high schools, the establishment of a Board of Agriculture, the re-organization of the fisheries branch of the Agricultural Department and the installation, as an experimental measure, of a cold storage plant at Trivandrum for fish preservation.

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It is understood that Dr. G. D. Nokes, Judge of the High Court, who lately acted as Special Officer to propose plans for the constitution of a Public Services Commission, has been appointed Public Service Commissioner in pursuance of the order of the Government announcing the creation of a central authority for recruitment to public service.

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In reply to the deputation, which recently waited on him, of the South Travancore Chamber of Commerce, emphasising the need of reviving and putting into working order the Colachel Harbour which is claimed to be the second great harbour in the State, the Dewan said that an enquiry had already been started to explore the ways of reviving the ancient ports of Colachel and Lepuram and that consistent with the prevailing economic condition in the State, the Government would make all efforts to solve the question in the best possible way.

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In the interest of efficiency and prompt despatch of business the Travancore Government have accorded sanction to the separation of Water Works and Drainage Departments from the Public Works Department proper, constituting them into a separate department under a Water Works and Drainage Engineer to Government.

### COCHIN

An outstanding question to be decided at the forthcoming Simla Conference of the representatives of the Government of India and the Governments of Madras, Cochin and Travancore is that relating to the civil jurisdiction over the Harbour area. The Cochin Durbar has all along been against surrender of jurisdiction, maintaining that if jurisdiction is to be ceded by either State, jurisdiction over the British area should be ceded to Cochin and not *vice versa*,

as nine-tenths of the port lies within the Cochin State while only one-tenth in the British territory. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru who represents Cochin has prepared a workable scheme which does not involve any surrender of jurisdiction on the part of the Cochin State, but at the same time provides for a joint administration without any friction between the British and Cochin authorities both in regard to the preservation of law and order and the enforcement of laws by judicial tribunals.

According to the scheme, the Port, when completed, would be administered by a Port Trust, and a body, known as the Governors of the Port, will be constituted to exercise within the whole Port limits the functions assigned by the Port Trust Acts to the Madras Government and the Cochin Durbar within their respective areas included in the port. This body will consist of the Agent to the Governor General, Madras States, representing the Government of India, a representative of the Cochin Durbar and a representative of the Madras Government, representing the three Governments territorially interested in the Port. The Madras Government oppose perpetuation of the dual jurisdiction on the ground that it will retard, if not completely destroy, the chances of utilisation of the harbour and suggest that, as in the case of railway lands the proper course is for the Cochin State to cede jurisdiction to the Government of India over the port with curtailed limits. In regard to this the Cochin Durbar's position is that the controversy as regards railway lands between the two States is yet undecided and that in any case the Durbar is not willing to extend the scope of its cession.

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The Cochin Government have given up the idea of participating in the Pykara or Pallivasal schemes for the purpose of electrifying the towns of Ernauculum and Trichur and have decided to work up their own hydro-electric scheme which is estimated to cost Rs. 70 lakhs. It is proposed to instal immediately two thermal stations at the above-mentioned two places at a cost of about Rs. 8 lakhs, pending the installation of the bigger hydro-electric project at Poringalkuttu. The Government can no longer hold up their electrification schemes as some of the neighbouring areas have already started their schemes and delay may mean the migration of some Cochin industries to those territories.

### **IDAR**

The Administration Report of the Idar State for the year 1933-34 is a record of well-directed attempts of a young, energetic, educated and intelligent Ruler added by an able Dewan and equally efficient staff, to enable the state to reach early the highest possibilities of its development. The authorities have not been slow to realise that the vast cultivable lands in the State could be worked to great advantage given irrigational facilities and that several small industries could and should be developed to add to the prosperity of the people. The State has in contemplation the

establishment of various co-operative societies and an agricultural and industrial bank. To facilitate the work of agricultural improvement, a separate Department of Agriculture was inaugurated during the year. A central agricultural committee was subsequently constituted by Rai Bahadur Raj Ratna J. N. Bhandari, Dewan Sahib of Idar, particularly with a view to giving an impetus to village uplift work. It has been decided to induce enterprising cultivators to specialise in growing such crops as cotton, wheat, pototoes, groundnuts and edible fruits on a remunerative basis. The newly created agricultural Department will supply high quality seeds and agricultural implements and devise a scheme for marketing the produce. The liberal and enlightened policy pursued by the State in the matter of land settlement is responsible for the steady rush of Patidars from Charotar Gujarat and Cutchis from Cutch to settle in the State as cultivators.

The Department of Education which like the Agricultural Department shows increased expenditure maintains the pace of progress it set some time ago. The total number of educational institutions rose from 125 to 131 and that of primary schools from 92 to 98. The total number of students attending primary schools has within the last two years increased by 30 per cent. Greater attention is being paid to the vocational side of education. Since 1932 the State has been running an Agricultural and Village Uplift school at Himatnagar.

There are three municipalities in the State—at Idar, Himatnagar and Vadali. The principal feature of the year's working, says the Report, was the handing over of the Himatnagar municipality to the representatives of the public, a step towards teaching local self-government to the people.

The total gross revenue of the State during the year was 13½ lakhs as compared with 14 lakhs during the previous year and total expenditure Rs. 13 lakhs as against the previous year's expenditure of Rs. 12½ lakhs.

### REWA

His Highness the present Ruler of Rewa has been devoting his best energies to the promotion of education in the State. Education both of the school and college brand is receiving his earnest attention. An Intermediate College has been established at the capital providing instruction in a large number of Arts and Science subjects. Arrangements have also been made in it to teach riding and military drill under the expert guidance of an officer of the Rewa army. In order to meet the demand for trained and expert hands for the many growing industries in the State, a technical school has been established at Rewa, providing instruction in carpentry, weaving, commerce, etc. Recently the Mart and Hindi Middle school has been raised to the status of an Anglo-vernacular Middle school, and a Lady graduate has been appointed as Head Mistress of the Rewa Girls' School.

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To facilitate export of certain locally produced articles such as cloths, blankets, brassware, ironware, perfumary etc., for which increased demands

are being made from outside the State, the Rewa Durbar have decided to reduce the export duties on those articles. The reduction is so heavy as to be tantamount to virtual abolition of the duties.

### **UDAIPUR**

His Highness the Maharana of Udaipur has earned the gratitude of all who hold dear the cause of female education in the State by establishing at his capital a residential institution for education of girls and adult women along progressive lines with a background of Indian culture. Much stress is laid on handicrafts such as would suit the womenfolk. In keeping with its importance, the Handicraft Department will, it is reported, be housed in a separate block. On the occasion of the inauguration of the institution lectures by learned men were arranged and a women's conference and an educational exhibition were organised.

### **SANGLI**

A New Market Act which was recently passed by a majority of the members of the Sangli Assembly, not more than one-half of whom are nominated by the State and not more than one-fourth are officials, is awaiting sanction of His Highness the Raja Saheb. The measure is intended to preserve the reputation of the Sangli Market which is a great entrepot of agricultural products, by preventing, for instance, adulteration of cotton and to secure to the cultivator a fair price for his produce by enforcing such action as the use of correct and full weights by the buyers.

### **BONAI**

The Publicity Officer, Bonai State, informs us that since the last publication of the State news in the *Landholders' Journal* there have been no fresh attacks of cholera and small-pox and the two diseases appear to have been brought under complete control. The rains have set in and sowing of rice is now complete. The Raja Saheb was absent from the capital for a few days to join the Upanayan ceremony of the Khariar Yubaraj. In accordance with his wishes a graduate teacher has recently been appointed to teach the Jema Saheba of the late Bara Kumar, Bengali in addition to English and Oriya.

The chief has ordered remission of the grazing tax which is collected from cattle dealers in the State. It is hoped that this measure will induce the dealers to visit the interior and the enable them to ply their trade with benefit to themselves and to the State by removing the want of plough cattle which is keenly felt. He has also been pleased to remove restrictions on mortgages and sale of land by tenants which have hitherto handicapped them in respect of agricultural improvements. The new order, however, is not intended to apply to lands of the *Bhuinyans* and other aborigines who are under the special protection of the State.

## Matters of Moment

### THE ANGLO-GERMAN NAVAL PACT

The Anglo-German Naval Pact is England's reply to the Franco-Soviet and the Franco-Italian alliances and to the rising menace of Japan in the East. Its strange suddenness has startled the world, but it is no more strange than the Anglo-French Entente of 1904 or the Anglo-Russian Alliance of 1907. The War led to a serious weakening of England's position both in Europe and the the East. On the continent, Germany's elimination as a Great Power led to an open French hegemony, both military and financial, and in the East the rise of the Bolshevik regime in Russia gave England her most determined enemy. And Japan whom England had hitherto used as a counterpoise to Russia, had outgrown that stage and was seriously challenging Great Britain for supremacy in the Far East and casting longing eyes even on India. Such was the international situation in which England found herself after the War.

England met it, in Europe, by backing Italy and Germany against France. From the very day of the Armistice, Lloyd George began to support Germany against France, and British and French attitudes regarding Germany have always diverged materially since the War. It however took England fifteen years, substantially aided though she was by Italy, by U.S.A. and by Soviet Russia, to rehabilitate Germany once again as a great European power. Europe, as Lord Halisham said sometime ago, at last began to emerge from a period of French hegemony. Poland was drawn into the German orbit and so a need for combination arose in Europe, which with England's help would serve as a counterpoise to the French military power and could always be utilised against the hated Bolsheviks.

France was seriously alarmed and under Barthou and Laval set herself to organise a great French block which would be strong enough always to dominate the continent. Russia was greatly alarmed at the menacing march of Japanese imperialism on her eastern frontier and the openly declared aim of the Germano-Polish alliance to attack her when she would have her hands full in the Far East. A Franco-Russian alliance therefore lay in the nature of things and was the first French reply to Hitler. France then went after Italy. Italy which had hitherto been bolstered up by England against France, and backed Germany as the good friend of England and the enemy of France, had been much exercised over German intrigues in Austria and was bought up by France

by some territorial concessions in Africa and by the prospect of a free hand in Abyssinia, the result of which we are witnessing at present.

Such was the European situation when the Anglo-German Naval Pact was announced. The Pact is in reality an alliance between the great Nordic Powers, and revives the historic alignment of powers in Europe, if we overlook the decade before the War. Throughout the 18th and the 19th centuries, Germany or to be more correct, Prussia, had been England's historic ally on the continent against France and then Russia. It was only after Germany had openly challenged England for the commercial and imperial supremacy of the world, and only after Russia had been eliminated for the time being as a powerful factor in the Far and the Middle East by Japan, that England abandoned her historic policy of alliance with Germany and went into the opposing camp ; and for the first time in history, the two peoples met under their national flags in war in 1914.

By the Pact, Germany is allowed to build a fleet equal to 35 per cent of the British fleet, except in the case of submarines in which she is given a superior percentage. Under the Washington Treaty of 1922, France and Italy are entitled to keep a fleet not exceeding 36 per cent of the British fleet in the matter of capital ships, i. e. ships with a higher tonnage than 10,000 tons. The new German fleet therefore would be equal to the French and Italian fleets in the matter of capital ships in tonnage, and definitely superior to either as fighting power as the German ships would be entirely new and would avail of all up-to-date improvements. As regards other over-water crafts, cruisers, destroyers, etc., as the British fleet is overwhelmingly superior to any other fleet in the world, the new German fleet being 35 per cent of the British fleet will be superior to the French and the Italian ones. In submarines, it is true, the French are the leading power in the world, but here the Germans have been granted a higher percentage—they are allowed a submarine fleet equal to 45 per cent of the British.

The alliance, for alliance it is, will be of vital help to England, for the new German fleet will release the British fleet from guarding the North Sea and the seas round the British Isles and enable it to operate at its full strength in the Mediterranean and above all in the Pacific against a Japanese invasion. Just as the Anglo-French Entente of 1904 enabled the British to leave the Mediterranean to the French fleet and concentrate the whole of England's great naval power in the North Sea against the rising German menace, so the Anglo-German Naval Pact of 1935 will enable Great Britain to leave the "home waters" to the German fleet and concentrate the whole of her naval strength at Singapore or if necessary at Malta. For, and this is the vital point, though the Japanese navy stands to the British in the ratio of 3 : 5 and though Great Britain along with U. S. A. will try to maintain that ratio, in the absence of any alliance with a leading continental naval power, whose navy England will be able

to command at her hour of peril, it would not be possible to concentrate even the major part of her navy at Singapore. She must have at least half of her fleet in Europe to defend the "home waters" and the Mediterranean which is the vital artery of the Empire, and experts think that the real ratio of Japanese to British naval strength in the Pacific is not 3 : 5 but 3 : 2.

The Pact will enable Great Britain to concentrate the major portion of her fleet, about four-fifths in the Pacific. The remaining portion of her fleet aided by strong contingent from the German fleet to be created, will be sufficient to command the Mediterranean against any possible hostile action on the part of the Latin Powers. It will, on the other hand, enable Britain to keep Russia in check. The Germano-Polish alliance is always like a sword hanging over Moscow and by absorbing all Russia's energies towards her western and eastern fronts, render her incapable of any serious interference with Britain's interests and Britain's designs in the East.

As a piece of "realpolitik" it is difficult to praise the Pact too highly. It equals the best achievements of British statesmanship. It will maintain British interest in the Far East by keeping Japan in check. It will protect British interests in the Near and Middle East by keeping Russia otherwise occupied. It will allow Germany a chance of expansion in the East where it would be easiest and withhold her from either France or the colonial empire of Great Britain. There is a good deal of truth in the claim made by British statesmen that it is a great move towards world peace.

### JAPAN MOVES ON

There is a clockwise precision about Japanese imperial policy in the orient that has something ominous about it. In 1932, on a most flimsy pretext, she swallowed up a large part of China in open defiance of the League of Nations. Two years are now barely over and the Japanese army is again on the move. Taking advantage of some slight border disturbance the Japanese military authorities sometime ago presented the Nanking Government with a set of new and far-reaching demands. The Chinese authorities—both at Nanking and in the immediately affected province of Hopei—have yielded completely to this military pressure. So afraid are the Chinese of the Japanese and so careful they are of refraining from giving any offence to Japan which might be made the basis of new demands by the Japanese military party that no resistance has been attempted, and the Japanese army has been able to expel the Chinese national authorities from the former metropolitan province of China—Peking is situated in Hopie—without having to fire a shot. Two thousand troops are all that Japan needs to have on the spot in order to compel 50,000 Chinese troops to evacuate a Chinese province in which they have every right to be stationed. So overwhelming is the military ascendancy of Japan over China today and so helpless does China feel herself against the land of the rising sun.

The six demands which the Japanese army have imposed upon China appear the more portentous the more closely they are examined. They include the withdrawal from Hopei province of an ex-Manchurian division of Chinese troops which is still there. The two divisions of the Chinese National Army, directly dependant upon Nanking which have hitherto been stationed in Hopei have likewise been ordered out, together with all organisations connected with them. The Japanese have also insisted upon the liquidation, throughout the province, of the whole Chinese military and civil administration as well as the party organisation of the Kuomingtang.

The total effect of these Japanese demands has been to produce a complete military and administrative vacuum in the province, which is of the size of Italy, with a population of about 30 millions, including the two great cities of Tientsin and Pekin. Such a vacuum cannot last, and before long the Japanese army will step in obligingly to fill the void, and create a new "Manchukuo". We are witnessing today the extension of Japan's dominion over another great Chinese province.

This fresh act of aggression is momentous because Hopei is a key province in many ways. It contains Pekin, still the intellectual centre of China, and Tientsin which is after Shanghai the most important of the Chinese treaty ports. Hopei has also a great hinterland. One railway leads from Pekin through Kalgan on to the plateau of Inner Mongolia, on which Japan has already set her eyes; another from Pekin to Taiyuan which is the capital of the province of Shansi; a third line joins Pekin to the great city of Hankow; and a fourth one runs from Tientsin to Tsinantu and thence to Nanking. Tsinantu is the capital of the great province of Shantung, which with its tip jutting out towards Korea and Japanese isles, have always excited the covetousness of Japanese strategists. Japan got her grip over Shantung during the Great War when she stepped into Germany's shoes there, but had to relax it after the war because of Anglo-Saxon pressure. With Hopei in her power, Japan will fasten upon Shantung and secure a solid base of operations on the Yellow river; while on the western frontier the three Chinese provinces Shansi, Shensi and Kausu as well as the whole of Inner Mongolia will fall as ripe plums into Japanese arms. Of these, the province of Shensi is specially important, as it contains one-fourth of the world's reserves of coal and is thus specially valuable to Japan, whose power resources are very poor. Already the Japanese authorities have demanded the evacuation of Cahar by all Chinese troops and Cahar is the Chinese buffer province between Manchukuo and Inner Mongolia; Japan's control of it would leave all North China as well as Inner Mongolia at her mercy.

## **FRANCE BEGINS TO PUT HER HOUSE IN ORDER**

Since the fall of the Daladier Government and the Paris riots last year, France has been passing through a crisis, the greatest since the franc crisis of 1926. The franc, since the depreciation of the sterling and dollar, has remained considerably overvalued; consequently French

industries have decayed. It naturally resulted in an unbalanced budget and a huge deficit appeared last year. If the budget is to be balanced considerable economies have to be made, and this has not yet been done. Successive French cabinets have tried it and failed, due to the opposition of the chamber. Doumergue, during his premiership, after the riots of last year, tried to reform the constitution itself, to put some curb on the chamber, but was forced to resign. And when the Flandin and Bouissou cabinets tried to secure the necessary powers from the chamber for taking proper measures to remedy the situation, they were thrown out. The franc crisis in the beginning of this July however, put some sense into the chamber at last. Heavy withdrawals of gold seriously threatened the French momentary position. France was seriously alarmed about her ability to maintain the gold standard. The chamber changed its attitude and M. Laval was given "plenary powers" to put France's house in order.

M. Laval waited till the chamber went into recess, before initiating his work. After a cabinet meeting of over fourteen hours, the longest since the War, the Government have decided to effect economies totalling 10,400,000,000 francs. Of this, savings of 7,000,000,000 francs will be effected in the national budget, of 1,400,000,000 francs in the communal or local budgets and of 2,000,000,000 francs on the railways. Along with these drastic economies they have also decided to impose a super-tax on salaries of over 80,000 francs and a tax of 25 per cent on the profits of armament firms.

These measures, it is generally believed, will balance the budget and put the franc on a surer foundation. It was estimated that economies to the extent of 11 milliard francs would be required to balance the French budget. These new measures will bring about a net saving of about 11 milliards and this without taking the proposals for taxation into account.

The reaction to the decision of the Cabinet has been favourable. The Bourse has recorded an improvement and the tone in business quarters is better. The rate of the Bank of France was reduced on the 1st July, just after the announcement of those proposals from 4 to 3½ per cent. Of course the civil service is going to make some opposition, but it is generally believed that the people and the Parliament will stand solidly by M. Laval.

## DEVELOPMENT IN THE ITALO-ABYSSINIAN DISPUTE

The Italian Government have suspended the clause stipulating 40 per cent gold coverage for note circulation owing to the urgent need of procuring money for payments.

Considered in conjunction with Signor Mussolini's recent warlike pronouncements regarding the Abyssinian dispute, the step seems to imply that the Italian Government intend to pursue their imperialistic course to the end whatever the cost to the country.

It is pointed out in a brief official statement that the Japanese Ambassador, in an interview with Signor Mussolini, formally declared that

Japan had no desire to intervene in the Italo-Abyssinian conflict, and had no political interest there. Japan has certain commercial interests in Abyssinia, it is pointed out, and if Japanese experts to Abyssinia were the object of unfair discrimination, Tokyo would not accept such treatment. Japan demands fair play in the economic field.

It is however learnt that Japan, unlike the other Great Powers, continues to supply the Abyssinian army with munitions of the latest type and intends to send shortly a "military commercial mission" to that country.

The latest news concerning the Italo-Ethiopian tangle are somewhat reassuring. The British and French negotiations seem to have succeeded for the time being, the negotiators having had recourse to numerous verbal ingenuities for meeting the Italian objections to the dispute coming under the auspices of the League. It is understood that not only have both Italy and Abyssinia accepted a compromise resolution emanating from the League on the question of the League's interpretation of the Conciliation Commission's original terms of reference but Italy has agreed to take part in tripartite negotiations under the 1906 Treaty, to be carried on by British, French and Italian delegates shortly at Paris. The two parts of the resolution are (1) that the Commission should not consider whether, Ualual is under the sovereignty of either of the two parties but should concern itself solely with matters relating to responsibility for the Ualual incident and (2) that the Council of the League will meet on September 4 in any event in order to examine the various aspects of Italo-Ethiopian relations. It is also reported that M. Nicolas Politis, the Greek Minister in Paris will be the fifth arbitrator in the dispute, both parties having assented to the appointment.

But all this must not be taken to imply that the crisis is averted. It is still very much ahead, according to all informed opinion. Neither party has relaxed a whit its preparations for a coming grim test of arms. The postponement of the League's action may only mean that between now and September 1 another and a last chance may be availed of for effecting an agreement. But it will not do to forget that both topographical and weather conditions in Abyssinia do not permit of Italy's taking the field earlier than September.

## THE BENGAL DEVELOPMENT BILL, 1935

The Bengal Legislative Council has negatived by 66 votes against 39 a non-official motion to recommit the Bengal Development Bill 1935, to the Select Committee and agreed to take the bill, as modified by the Select Committee, into consideration. The Bill whose object, it may be remembered, is to revive and develop certain decadent areas in Western and Central Bengal and impose a levy on the increased profits resulting from improvement works (mainly of drainage and irrigation) constructed at Government's expense, had undergone important modifications at the hands of the Select Committee, notwithstanding Government protests to

the contrary. Khwaja Nazimuddin, Member in charge of the Bill, held that very few changes in substance had been made by the Committee and that the changes had mostly been those of phraseology of the Bill or related to the machinery proposed to carry out its provisions. The first important change was in section 5A which states that no improvement levy should be imposed unless the Bengal Legislative Council has recommended such imposition by a resolution. The Hon'ble Member explained that this proviso had been added only to give scope for a straightforward debate on the proposal to apply the provisions of the Bill to the Damodar, Eden and Bakreswar canals which are improvement works recently carried out by the Government and of the nature contemplated by the Bill. The next substantial change was under Sec. 8A which provides for payment of an improvement levy by landlords on new settlements. A third important change was with regard to the imposition of the improvement levy on non-agricultural lands. It was provided that after an improvement the increased profit should be assessed only once. As regards Section 30 the verbal changes made by the Committee would have the effect of preventing landlords from making any increase in the rent once fixed on land which has been settled after the imposition of the levy. This would deprive landlords of the right to enhance rents under certain circumstances contemplated by the B. T. Act and, as Mr. Sarat Kumar Roy, M.L.C. rightly pointed out in his Minute of Dissent, would be tantamount to modifying the B. T. Act by the back door.

The Government, however, took the wind out of the sails of the Opposition by taking the House into confidence as to certain amendments which they propose to move on the Bill modified by the Committee. The changes that have been foreshadowed will appear to many as small concessions to public demands and meeting them only half-way but none-the-less reflect credit on the Government for their ability to anticipate matters and willingness to meet criticisms in and outside the House. For instance, they propose by an amendment to make it clear that a specific resolution recommending an eventual imposition of an improvement levy should be necessary before any large improvement work was taken up for which an improvement levy was contemplated, and in regard to the vexed question of areas benefited by the Damodar, Eden and Bakreswar canals, they would move an amendment fixing the rate of maximum levy. They would move a further amendment to restrict the proposed levy on *salami* to non-cultural lands made cultivable by an improvement work. Regarding the question of restricting landlords' power to enhance rents under Sec. 30, the Government, we are glad to find, are conscious of the unrighteousness of such a step, modifying the B. T. Act in an indirect way and would leave the landlord free to enhance rents under the B. T. Act after the levy is imposed, if he is otherwise justified in doing so. In regard to the objection to the permanence of the improvement levy the Government, the Hon'ble member stated, were prepared to move an amendment that after the capital and interest charges have been recouped, the levy should be reduced to a rate approved by the Legislature.

The Bill will now be considered clause by clause by the House and its progress will be watched with keen interest by everybody in the Province.





## Gleanings

### MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DEGREES

Under the above caption *Educational India* for July writes editorially :

It is our firm conviction that mutual recognition ought to be the rule so far as the statutory universities are concerned. Universities like Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, etc., are all of them constituted under an Act passed by the legislatures of the country. They have regularly constituted academic bodies, Faculties, Boards of studies and Boards of examiners. The degrees they confer are based on the results of written, oral and practical examinations and are therefore genuine in character. They are not *bogus* degrees which are purchased in the market for a certain amount of money. The qualifications possessed by teachers in the different universities of the country are more or less of the same character. Moreover it is becoming increasingly the practice in every university to have on some of its boards —especially boards of examiners and of studies—teachers belonging to other universities. Under these circumstances there is no reason to think that the degrees of some universities are superior or inferior to those of others.

In the standards laid down for work and examination there does not seem to be much difference between one university and another. A look at the courses and syllabuses and at the questions set for the various examinations will make this clear. Of course, there is an impression entertained by one or two universities that they have higher standards than the rest. But such a view does not bear any critical scrutiny. It is just like the temper of old men who display an attitude of condescension towards younger men, priding themselves on the superior wisdom simply because they happened to be born earlier. There is no reason to think that in the All-India Competitive examinations or in the prosecution of higher studies in the Universities abroad degree holders of particular Indian Universities show any decided merit not possessed by those of other universities. In the production of original work the universities which pride themselves on their superiority have not taken any lead so far. There is no objective test by which a clear line of distinction can be drawn between the degrees conferred by one university and those of another so far as the quality of the degrees is concerned.

It is only a kind of narrow provincialism that is at the root of the whole trouble. Even academic bodies seem to forget that culture is as wide as the world and that they will be gaining a great deal by admitting into their fold persons from as large an area as possible. In this country of diverse races, languages, creeds and castes unity has always been kept up through culture. It is the scholars who roamed from one place of learning to another, who carried on disputations and debates with other scholars and who looked at things from different standpoints that created and maintained that bond which has made our country one in spite of all outward differences. Modern Universities which believe they are more progressive and liberal in their outlook should not place any obstacles in the way of more mutual contact among them. They should not add one more element of discord to the numerous elements that we already have.

This is not to say that an Indian University should not have the right to make its own rules regarding the outsiders that may be admitted to its colleges. But the rules should not be based on the erroneous idea that somehow its degrees are superior to those of the rest. In many cases the colleges and laboratories may have only limited accommodation. If outsiders are admitted into them without any kind of restriction it may so happen that its own under-graduates and the citizens of the area which makes financial contributions to its upkeep may have to be denied admission. Every university is therefore justified on these grounds in limiting the number of outsiders seeking admission into its fold. But where accommodation is ample, laboratories not crowded, it should welcome outsiders and enrich its cultural life. This should be the general policy that every university should adopt. And where a university derives financial help from the Government of India this must be a rule. The same applies with greater force to the different universities within the same province which are financed directly or indirectly by provincial governments.

It is a pity that in an important matter like this, the Inter-University Board has not so far done anything of real value. It has as its members the Vice-Chancellors and representatives of all the Universities. It meets a number of times in the course of the year. There will be no justifications for the expenses which each university incurs on it unless it takes up questions like these, discusses them fully and arrives at some reasonable solution. Let us hope that when the Board meets next time this subject will find a place on its agenda so that by the beginning of the next academic year we will cease to hear of any kind of Inter-University warfare.

### THE BENGAL DEVELOPMENT BILL, 1935

At the close of his analysis of the above Bill in the July number of the *Modern Review*, Mr. Bhabatosh Datta, M.A., turns his discussion on the arbitrary and drastic powers, complained of in some quarters, which the Government seek to arm themselves with for the successful working of the scheme :

The drastic powers that are demanded for the Government can be justified only by the ends they will secure. If the Government scheme materializes and is successful in creating a real prosperity for the cultivators, no one will take any objection to the powers which the Government want to exercise. It is, perhaps, going a bit too far to delimit the jurisdiction of the civil courts and to establish special courts for trying suits that will arise in connection with the operation of the scheme. But, it ought also to be noted that if the scheme can be successful only when adequate powers are reserved, such powers may in all fairness be given to the controlling authority. The Magia Hat drainage scheme, as the Hon'ble Member-in-charge pointed out, would have paid for itself; but it has been a burden on the revenues of the province as the result of a series of civil cases. When drastic reforms are necessary drastic methods may be indispensable. If the Government succeed in convincing the people of the need, for, and the value of a measure like this, very few persons would object to the grant of wide power to the authorities for making the scheme effective.

But, the greater part of the value of the improvement operations will disappear if the landlords appropriate the remainder of the surplus after the levy has been paid. In the case of occupancy-*raiyats* it will not be possible for the landlord to do so easily, but, in other cases, the tenants may have to hand over the surplus they secure to the zemindar. Those who cultivate on the half-produce system (*bhagehashi*) may be made by the land owners to cede to them the whole of the net surplus. Adequate provisions will be necessary for protecting the *raiyat* against undue demands of the landlord. It is, no doubt, "a difficult task to protect persons determined to make common cause with those who wish to deprive them of anything". But, it must be remembered, that the *raiyat* is always on the weak side of the bargain between him and the landlord, and what he apparently does is not necessarily what he wants of his own accord to do. It should be one of the cardinal features of the scheme to

preserve for the person who pays the levy, the increased profit due to improvement less only the share taken by the Government.

It will also be necessary to provide for adequate means to the cultivator to have his rate assessed on a fair and equitable basis. Perhaps the best way to secure this will be to allow the cultivator the right to appeal to the civil court, or at least to the specially constituted appeal authorities against the levies which will be imposed by the executive authority. The civil courts or the appeal authorities in such cases should go into the merits of the individual cases, and pronounce on the equity or otherwise of the rate charged.

This brings us to the question of the administration of the development scheme. The scheme will not certainly come into operation before the new reforms are inaugurated. It is on all hands admitted that a co-ordination of the Irrigation and Agriculture departments is absolutely essential, and it may be expected that both these subjects will come under the same portfolio after the reforms have been made effective. But, the problem of administration will not be entirely solved when these two departments have been brought under one controlling authority. The Minister-in-charge will always require the help of expert as well as common-sense opinion, and the institution of a small advisory committee will, perhaps, be found to be essential. Such an advisory committee can perform many useful functions. The advisory committee for Development Operations should consist of two or three officials, including a member of the Public Health Department, and a few representatives of cultivators, landholders and of academic economists. The existence of a committee like this will on the one hand create a link between the Government and the public and thus increase people's confidence in the administration of the scheme, and on the other hand will act as a check on the exercise of the drastic powers granted to the administration.

### UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION IN GERMANY

In the same journal Dr. J. M. Kumarappa M.A., PH.D., describes the Nazi Government's scheme for reduction of unemployment whose success is evidenced by the fact that in the last fourteen months, over 1,700,000 have been re-employed in business and industry while more than 3,000,000 have found work since the low point of employment reached about two years ago.

The fundamental idea with which Adolf Hitler approached large scale solution of the work programme pre-supposed that an economic recovery which returns millions of unemployed to the economic process could be brought about in the end only through private business. This position of Herr Hitler went far to quiet fears of tendencies of National-Bolshevism within the National Socialist movement. Greater emphasis was given to this idea by the new decrees issued by Hermann Wilhelm Goering and Dr. Alfred Hugenberg against any interference in private business and banks, especially on the part of over-zealous Nazis who seek to combine patriotism with private profits. In order to provide relief to the unemployed, the Nazi Government's financial and economic policies have been definitely and consistently subordinated to the purpose of creating opportunities for labour.

On the one hand, the demand for labour was increased by direct employment creation through the medium of public works projects and programmes, and indirect employment-creation by providing public funds to stimulate private investment activities and enterprises. On the other hand, the official programme has aimed at decreasing the supply of labour by withholding labour from industry, limiting women's labour to the household, restricting the mobility of labour through allocating workers into age groups, and regulating working hours. These measures have been backed up by the policy of financing and subsidizing public works on an unprecedented scale of liberality. The unemployment created with the aid of this Government bounty has been largely devoted to repairing houses and public buildings, canal and harbour

construction, bridge and road repairs and land reclamation, all of which has benefited the building trades almost exclusively. In all these schemes, preference has been given only to German firms, German products and German labour.

The centre piece of this public works programme is the Reich's auto highway project, which involves the construction of some 4,350 miles of motor roads at an estimated expense of 4,000,000,000 marks. This work will absorb, it is reported, some 70,000 workers, and the project as such is one of Hitler's pet hobbies. This network of special highspeed motor roads is to supplement the railroad lines, and is hailed as a revolution of the German transportation system. Herr Hitler has put through an extensive programme of public works for the relief of unemployment. Under the new Law for the Reduction of Unemployment, the State agreed to issue 1,000,000,000 marks of treasury notes to finance public works. The notes are to be redeemed, one-fifth each year, from 1934 to 1938. Besides these public works, others like suburban gardening, agrarian settlement, river regulation schemes and the like, are being utilized to provide jobs for the jobless.

With the decline of industrial activity and the heavy cost of maintaining the unemployed, the Nazi Government has been giving special attention to agriculture not only as a means of feeding the nation in case of war, but as a possible source of livelihood for the surplus of industrial workers. The present programme calls for a reduction of farm debts by 50 per cent. In order to reinforce the position of large land-owners interest rates have also been greatly reduced. This is not all. The Government is also putting through extensive schemes of new farm settlements, particularly in the North and in the East, where it is desired to strengthen and increase the German population in border regions. The Nazi officials have asked for 1,500,000,000 marks in order to work out their agricultural programme. And new agriculture is one of the specially favoured departments in the Nazi Government.

In carrying out its policy for decreasing the supply of labour, the Government enforced a number of unique measures, primarily designed to give relief to the jobless and to further its educational, social and other cultural ends, and which, at the same time, have the effect of withdrawing part of the workers from business and industry. Among these expedients is the voluntary labour service, which requires every young German to devote a certain period of his life to the service of the rural community. Some 250,000 youths between the ages of 18 and 25 are continually enlisted in this voluntary service. Another device for curtailing the supply is that known as "land help", which serves the purpose of bringing young workers from industrial districts, where they are employed as farm hands. For the fiscal year 1934-35, it is planned to mobilize 160,000 male and female workers on farms, but only persons between the ages of 18 and 25 will be allowed to enrol for such work. In all these enterprises, the Nazi officials are aiming at bringing about a better balance between industry and agriculture by keeping down over-development of industry and giving every possible help for the expansion of agriculture.

### IS THERE ANY LIBERTY?

A characteristic Shavian speech on "Freedom" which had been broadcast from London was reported by a correspondent of the *Hindu* on June 19. While seeking to prove that there was no liberty, Mr. G. B. Shaw claimed full measure of the same for himself for, it is reported, he refused to submit the manuscript of his speech to the B. B. C. officials for their inspection and censorship.

Mr. Shaw defined a free person as "one who can do what he likes, where he likes, when he likes and nothing at all if he prefers." Then he added "there is no such person, and there never can be."

According to Mr. Shaw, he was stating only facts when he called Karl Marx the last of the Hebrew prophets and ridiculed the women of England who, on being given the vote, refused to vote for women who had devoted their lives to their service.

and returned only one with a lot of money. He laughed at the way in which when the Russians insisted on their own idea of freedom, we made war on them, then told a lot of lies about them, and then asked them to dinner.

Real freedom, Mr. Shaw claimed, meant a lot of leisure. He put this problem to his wireless audience. "If you had your choice, would you work for eight hours a day and retire with a full pension at 45, or would you work four hours a day and work until you are 70? Don't send your reply to me. Talk it over with your wife."

"If you allow any persons, to get the upperhand", he said, "they will shift all that part of their slavery that can be shifted on to your shoulders, and you will find yourselves working from 8 to 14 hours a day when, if you had only yourselves and your family to look after, you could do it quite comfortably in half the time or less. The object of honest government is to prevent your being imposed upon in that way. The object of most actual Governments is exactly the opposite. They enforce your slavery and call it freedom . . . . Nature is kind to her slaves, while the slavery of man to man is the very opposite. It is hateful to the body and to the spirit. When we grumble we are told our miseries are our own doing. We are reminded that the rich are taxed one quarter, a third or even a half of their income. But the poor are never reminded that they have to pay as much in rent, and in addition to having worked twice as long as they would have, if they were free. As society is constituted at present, there is another far more intimate compulsion on you—that of your landlord and your employer. Your landlord may refuse to let you live on an estate if you go to chapel instead of to church or if you vote for anybody who is his enemy, or if you practise osteopathy."

"The general strike of all the workers at the same moment is also the extreme form of human folly, as, if completely carried out, it would exterminate the human race in a week," Mr. Shaw remarked.

"The general strike is Trade Unionism gone mad. Sane Trade Unionism would never sanction more than one big strike at a time, with all the other trades working overtime to support it."

"We must change our politics before we can get what we want," Mr. Shaw concluded, "and, in the meantime, we must stop gassing about freedom because the English people don't know what freedom is, never having had any."

### THE M. C. C.

Mr. A. Picklay thus narrates the history of the famous Marylebone Cricket Club in the pages of the *Indian Review* for July :

The Marylebone Cricket Club, which is the governing body of the game and lays down its rules, was founded in 1789. It originated partly in the desire of some London gentlemen to form a club and play cricket and partly in the business enterprise of a man named Thomas Lord. Lord was cricketer of some reputation and used to visit the Artillery Field at Finsbury which was one of the oldest grounds. One day, Lord met there the Earl of Winchilsea and the Hon. Colonel Lennox both of whom were great cricket enthusiasts, and the two latter promised him their support if he would find a suitable ground. In 1787, the spot was selected and brought the Lords and the M. C. C. into being.

The first match of note to be played on the Lord's grounds was in June 1787 between England and the White Conduit Club, the former winning by 239 runs. A year later, M. C. C. played the White Conduit Club, the former winning by 83 runs.

Some years after the inception of the M. C. C., Lord had a dispute with his landlord over the rent of the site and took another ground at North Bank, Regent's Park, in the year 1810. The grounds, however, had to be changed again three years later, when the Regent canal was planned and its course went through the cricket ground. Lord had, therefore, to shift the ground to its present site in 1814.

But even then, the vicissitudes of Lords were not over. On 18th July 1825, a disastrous fire started in the old pavilion and nearly all the records and many important documents in connection with the game were destroyed. Lord had over £2,000 owing to him from members for subscriptions and as the books of account were all burnt, and he was planning a retirement for some time, he was in a quandary. At that time, many prospective buyers had their eyes on the site for building purposes, and it was the timely intervention of Mr. William Ward, M. P., for the city of London which preserved the grounds for cricket. Lord got £5,000 for it and retired as he had desired.

In 1836, Ward fell on hard days and sold the lease of the Lords to Mr. John Henry Dark. In 1863, Mr. Dark proposed to part with his interest in the Lord's ground for £15,000 for the remaining twenty-nine and a half years of the lease, and in the following year, it was lowered to £11,000, the property comprising of a tavern, a racquet and tennis court, a billiard room and the cricket ground. The ground landlord offered to renew the ground rent for 99 years at £550 per annum instead of the former £150, and eventually the place was sold outright for £18,150. The money for the purchase was given on mortgage at 4 per cent, by Mr. William Nicholson, a member of the M. C. C. Committee, and from 1866 onwards the club could call the ground its own. The loan was paid off fully by 1878 and the Lords' ground became the permanent property of M. C. C.

In the history of the Lords, there are two events deserving of special mention. The first concerns the remuneration of professional players which was fixed during the first University match in 1827, the scale being £6 per head for the winners and £4 per head for the losing side. The second was in 1843 when His late Royal Highness the Prince Consort became patron of the club with the result that in the following year there were 465 members on the roll of the club. Since then, the club has been a privileged one and the influence that it wields in shaping the destinies of the game has made it an authority on cricket.

### CIVILIZATION ON TRIAL

"Humanity has been accumulating energy at an enormous pace. In addition to man power, it has brought in mechanical energy to an extraordinary extent. And now it doesn't know what to do with that surplus energy. Because it deals as it does with human relationships, it cannot cash in on the surplus that it has achieved. The surplus of energy which has accumulated in human affairs for several thousand years has been partially expended in building up the standards of life. But the most natural method of relief has been war." So writes Mr. H. G. Wells in the July (Quarterly) issue of *Foreign Affairs*.

War [continues he] is a kind of excretion of the human social body. The energy accumulates—and human intelligence is not adequate to the problem of how to utilize it. So it has to get rid of it again. The chief corrective has been war.

No country goes to war because it is poor, no country goes to war because it is weak and unhappy. A country goes to war because it is full of vigour, because it has a great mass of unemployed people, because it has materials at hand. War is an excretory product, and until the world discovers some other means of using its surplus energy, war will go on.

The dogmatic doctrine known as Communism offers no solution. Karl Marx misunderstood and perverted the philosophy of Robert Owen and other idealistic socialists who looked for social betterment through collective action. Marx's theory of the inevitability of class warfare is one of the most pernicious things that ever happened to humanity. It is as bad as the inevitability of conflict between nations.

**He pleads for Anglo-American co-operation,—co-operation of the peoples comprising the English-speaking community which is "the greatest single body of mentality in the world to-day" for maintenance of peace in the world and the solution of "some of the financial riddles, the economic riddles and the political riddles that puzzle us."**

Unless men can get outside their national limitations, and unless they can tackle economic and financial and monetary questions with something bigger than their national equipment, I think it is not a question of centuries but of decades before we see our civilization going down. And it will not be for the first time.

The problem is to make peace successful. If peace is not successful, if war intervenes, it will be due entirely to the fact that under existing conditions, we are not able to utilize our surplus energy, to employ our idle hands, in any other way to make life satisfactory and interesting. Failing the release of energy that would come from making peace successful we will collapse into war. The way to get rid of war is not by leagues. The energies for war go on accumulating just the same.

The only thing to do is to invent a successful form of peace. That means a new sort of life for human beings. The choice before us is war or a new world—a rational liberal collectivist world with an ever rising standard of life, an ever bolder collective enterprise, in science, in art, in every department of living. Because so far we have not shown the intellectual power and vigour to take the higher, more difficult way, because we have not had sense enough to discover what to do with our accumulation of social energy is why at the present time we are drifting and sliding back towards destruction. If humanity fails, it will fail for the lack of organised mental effort and for no other reason.

### CO-OPERATIVE LENDINGS

The following extracts from a paper read by A. U. Malji before the Baroda Economic Society and published in the *Bombay Co-operative Quarterly* for June will interest co-operators, especially those that have to do with the credit side of the organisation :

Co-operative lendings at the bottom are grounded on the following factors :

- (1) Looking to members' requirements ahead ;
- (2) Subjecting them to popular check by open voting ;
- (3) Meeting the same as and when required ;
- (4) Applications of the loans to their declared purposes ,
- (5) Capacity to repay ;
- (6) Nature of security to insure timely repayments
- (7) Due facilities of extension in case of need.

To illustrate the first three factors the family budgeting must be pressed and the first lesson to be learnt is to know and ascertain their requirements sufficiently in advance. As the primary societies are not in a position to finance their members fully from their meagre funds they have to secure these funds for their members from a central bank and it is only meet that their requirements should be so settled that the primary societies can timely draw the money as and when necessary . . . . It is always to be understood that necessity does not depend upon the assets of the members applying for a loan but upon his immediate needs as determined in the light of his station in life and of industriousness as judged by his comrades and recommended by local unions. Even when a loan is required the same should not be borrowed or advanced earlier than when required to avoid all chances of misapplication.

(Item No. 4). The application of the loans to their legitimate or declared purposes is in itself a security of the loans and this sort of application of funds has

to be very jealously guarded in order to maintain the sound position of a society as a whole.

(Item No. 5.) A member who is out for a loan from a society as opposed to a *sowcar* has got to make a clean breast of his liabilities and commitments with a view to compare them with his declared assets and investigations should then be undertaken to find out his annual income and expenses with the object of determining his annual savings. A long term loan should be sanctioned only if such savings could be traced to an appreciable or to the required extent at least.

(Items No. 6 and 7). These can be briefly disposed of as members of primary societies mostly give personal security and in some rare places this is supplemented by insurance of their cattle which are also their wealth. The repayment loans advanced for productive purposes depends on the nature of seasons and market prices over which members have no control and . . . . . these two factors will not prove as impediments to the progress of the movement with one or two extensions at best in case of need.

For landless cultivators a system of group life assurance is possible now and in course of time we may introduce a collective life assurance policy for the entire membership of the society, without any age and even without any medical examination (as in America). In any case each society can open an insurance fund from out of its lendings to cover its probable bad debts.

For the better functioning of co-operative credit societies the writer suggests :

- (1) Lowering the interest rate in sympathy with the prevailing easy money-market.
- (2) Doing away with penal and compound rates
- (3) Introduction of payment of rebate to members who punctually repay their loans
- (4) Fixing repayment of sanctioned loans with notions of reclamation and always in consonance with the borrowers' repaying capacities.
- (5) Reduction in recovery charges (at present estimated at 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in Bombay Presidency.)

### THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

Who was actually responsible for the Permanent Settlement of Bengal, which, whatever their judgment upon it, all agree in regarding as a most momentous enactment ? This question has been answered by Dr. Prakash Chandra, M.A., LL.B., PH.D., in the pages of the *Calcutta Review* (July).

Ostensibly of course the responsibility lies with the Court of Directors who under the Act of 1784 generally retained the last voice in Indian affairs. But in this case their hands were forced.

On the 13th April, 1722, Warren Hastings assumed the Governorship of Bengal and on the following day he received the memorable letter of the Directors directing the President and Council of Fort William to stand forth as Dewan and to take over the entire care and management of the revenues. Accordingly a plan was drawn up by which a five years' settlement was made with the farmers of revenue and the zemindars. In 1775 when the arrangement had been in operation for three years, its results were reviewed, Warren Hastings was of opinion that the plan of letting the land to farmers had proved satisfactory but Phillip Francis sharply dissented from this view. The controversy which arose between the two led to the famous plan of Francis in which he favoured a permanent arrangement with the zemindars. He condensed his principles into one short paragraph which deserves to be remembered as the germ of the future Permanent Settlement.

"The *jumma* once fixed must be a matter of public record. It must be permanent and unalterable and the people must, if possible, be convinced that it is so. If there be any hidden wealth still existing, it will then be brought forth and employed in improving the land because the proprietor will be satisfied he is labouring for himself."

No immediate action was taken on Francis's minute. Indeed from the quinquennial settlements were abandoned in 1777 and annual settlements were substituted in their place.

But it is significant that the India Act of 1784 embodied the general idea of Francis. It seems probable enough that Pitt who had shared in the Parliamentary distrust of the policy and methods of Warren Hastings had accepted the scheme for no better reason than because it emanated from his rival and principal circle. However that may be, we know that the Directors were definitely against committing themselves beforehand on the subject. Their representations were however disregarded and section 39 of the Act directed them to settle the permanent rules according to which the landholders were to pay their revenue to the Government.

Nor were the Ministers content to leave the fulfilment of this provision to the Directors. In 1786 the Board of Control (the predecessor of the present Secretary of State for India in Council) drew up a despatch in which occurred the fateful words : "The *jumma* now to be formed shall, as soon as it can have received our approval and ratification, be considered as the permanent and unalterable revenue of our territorial possessions in Bengal."

The Bengal Government on receipt of these orders adopted certain tentative proposals, and the Court of Directors while reviewing the proposed arrangement observed that they trusted that it would undergo from time to time such alterations as experience and a constant attention to the subject should point out to be necessary (Bengal Draft Despatch, Sept. 11, 1788). This was apparently not the view of the Board of Control who not only deleted the Court's paragraph when the despatch came for their approval but substituted another deprecating a suggestion of Shore contained in his minute of 29th May, 1787, that the proposed regulations were to be considered merely as a groundwork for future measures and liable to alteration.

This opposition of Sir John Shore to the proposed settlement of which we get an inkling here was maintained to the end. Both Cornwallis and he were agreed on the desirability of making the settlement with the landholders, but while the former insisted on making it perpetual, the latter preferred the permanency of the principles on which it was to be based to its own permanence. . . . .

But whatever the ultimate view both were agreed that the settlement should be declared in the first instance to be for ten years only. Cornwallis however wanted to couple it with an important notification, viz. that if approved by the Court of Directors, the existing settlement would become permanent. Shore very rightly considered such a notification to be inexpedient on the ground that in case the Directors decided otherwise, the landholders might regard it as breach of faith on the part of the Government. The Governor-General however stuck to his proposal and in February 1790, the above-mentioned notification was issued. When therefore he called upon the Directors to ratify his measure, he made a refusal virtually impossible.

Nor was this all. Dundas, the President of the Board of Control, who had been throughout a supporter of the measure and whose aid Cornwallis had likewise invoked seeing that some of the more influential Directors were opposed to it, decided to draw up a despatch on the subject himself, thus ensuring its acceptance. . . . .

Charles Grant mentions that there was considerable opposition to the measure so that at last the Board of Control dictated the orders. According to the then Secretary to the Board particular parts of the despatch were written by Pitt, Dundas and Grant.

## Sunderban Landholders' Association

**M**ESSRS. S. C. Law and B. C. Ghose, Joint Honorary Secretaries, Sunderban Landholders' Association have sent a note to the Secretary, Bengal Legislative Council, containing their observations on the Bengal Development Bill, 1935, which was referred to the Association sometime ago for eliciting their opinion. After describing the physical condition of the Sunderbans and their past history with special reference to the gradual introduction of the operation of Regulations and Acts into this area and their gradual reclamation under the terms and conditions under which the lands comprised in them are held by the proprietors and the different grades of tenants, the note proceeds to discuss whether the provisions of the new Bill will be consistent with the provisions of the Regulations and Acts now in force in this area and the terms and conditions of the leases under which the *lotdars* hold the lands :

Before entering into the details of the provisions of the Bill we think we ought to state generally that the state and condition of the Sunderbans have not yet come to such a stage as to admit of the operation of the provisions of the proposed Act. We should think that the Sunderban lands are yet to pass through various preliminary stages before they would require the application and operation of such a law as the Bengal Development Act of 1935. At the time when the fee simple grants were first introduced the "paramount object of the Government in devising rules in that behalf was declared to be the reclamation of the Sunderbans, that pestilential tract near Calcutta which afforded a home for wild animals and shelter to smugglers and pirates. The improvement of the revenue was of secondary and altogether subordinate importance. Till then it had been thought that improvement of revenue might keep pace with the clearance of jungle without materially impairing it, but that had proved to be fallacious. Increase of revenue would of course follow reclamation but that had been looked for too soon." In framing the rules of the year 1853 that principle was abandoned and speedy reclamation was declared to be the paramount object, Government being, however, left free to impose a moderate assessment at some future time. In framing the rules regarding the large capitalist leases the same principle was kept in view ; but the object of the present Act is not to proceed in furtherance of that object. But it is being thrust upon the Sunderbans where it will be productive of results which will have retrograde effect.

It is well known that the *lotdars* in the Sunderbans suffer for dearth of tenants and within the area of every *lotdar* there are large tracts of *khas* lands. The so-called benefited area and the imposition under the Act will surely work great hardship upon the *lotdars* if suitable tenants are not available for the *khas* lands.

Many of the *lotdars* have now finished their outer embankments and have also closed both mouths of the *Khals* that passed through their lots. If the improvements contemplated by the Act are attempted to be taken in hand, that would mean the opening of the mouths of the *Khals*, which again would mean passing of the saline water through them. This will cause immediate ruin to the landlords or tenants concerned as the case may be.

The opening of the *Khals* in the above manner might improve the health of the locality but for that purpose one need not have recourse to the proposed Act of 1935, because that object can be attained by invoking the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act.

Paddy is the only crop that is grown in the Sunderbans. The crop is not getting a favourable market. That shows that in the present condition of things the supply is more than the demand. The Bengal paddy even now cannot compete in open market with the imported paddy. Even if we assume that the benefited area within the meaning of the proposed Act will have improved outturn, that will not improve the condition of the lotdars and the tenants if there is no favourable market for the crop. At the top of this there will be the imposition under the Act in the name of the benefited area and the large outlay of capital.

It thus appears that having regard to the physical condition of the Sunderbans and to the careful way in which the Sundarbans has been handled by the Government in introducing gradually with great discrimination the Regulations and Acts in force there from the year 1816 up to the present time, and the history of its reclamation and the rules of the settlement beginning with those of the fee simple grants, it is apparent that the drastic provisions of the proposed Act will not fit in at all with the policy adopted in the administration of the Sunderbans.

The introduction of the operation of the present Act in the Sunderbans would scare away tenants (already not easily available) who would not certainly like to take lands for cultivation under uncertain conditions created by the proposed Act, although some of the provisions may seem advantageous to them.

The more important sections we are concerned with are Secs. 5A, 6, 7, 8, 8A, 9, 9A, 9AA, 9B, 9C, 10, 10A, 10B, 11, 11A, 12, 13, 15, 16, 16A, 16B, 17, 18, 19, 19B, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 29A, 30, 31A, 31B, 32, 33,

The above sections may be divided in several groups :

Imposition on agricultural land sec. 6-8.

Imposition on non-agricultural land sec. 9.

Procedure sec. 10—14.

Recovery sec. 9B, 9C, 15—18.

Enquiry etc. sec. 19.

Exemption sec. 19B.

Right to water sec. 20—21.

Authority of Government sec. 22—25.

Compensation sec. 26—29 A.

Restriction of enhancement sec. 30.

Condoning irregularity sec. 31 A.

Bar to suit sec. 31 B.

No suit against persons for anything done in good faith sec. 32.

Rule-making power sec. 33.

Now coming to the individual sections it at once strikes one that in secs. 5A, 6, 7, 8, 8A, 9A, 9AA, 10A of the Act a departure has been made from the procedure laid down in similar matters contained in sec. 4A of the B. T. Act and a similar provision in the Sanitary Drainage Act. It is a matter of common knowledge that the provisions in the said two Acts are working well and are producing the desired result without much hardship upon the persons concerned. Therefore it is difficult to appreciate why this departure has been made.

As regards sec. 9 we find that we are concerned with agricultural lands only in the Sunderbans and there is no scope for the application of this provision of the Act in the Sunderbans, as there are only lands which are either cultivated or culturable, and non-agricultural land is practically nil.

Regarding the provisions of secs. 10-14 our Association are of opinion that there is no conceivable reason why so far as sec. 10 is concerned a departure has been made from the procedure in that behalf in the analogous Acts, namely, Drainage Act, Sanitary Drainage Act and Embankment Act and also why the same sec. 10 as framed has been made applicable to agricultural as well as non-agricultural lands.

As regards secs. 11-11A our Association find that a distinction has been drawn in the matter of appeal between cases regarding agricultural and non-agricultural lands. But our Association find no intelligible ground why in both these cases the appeals should not be provided for in the line of the old sec. 109A and new sec. 115C of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

With regard to sec. 12 our Association are of opinion that the provisions contained in it are more drastic and arbitrary than those contained in any of the analogous appeals.

As regards sec. 18 our Association are of opinion that sub-sec 2 & 3 should certainly be deleted. Such provisions are contained in those two sub-sections as are not to be found even in the Survey Act. No such power has given to such officers in the B. T. Act nor in any such matter under any of the analogous Acts. This provision will operate extremely harshly in case of the Sunderban landholders and tenants who are generally not residents of the locality.

Sec. 22 has in one breath laid down provisions without any safeguards regarding drainage work which are not in keeping with the spirit of the present Act and ought to have formed the subject matter of a separate and complete code. It has overlooked certain provisions of the Bengal Irrigation Act with which this section would be inconsistent.

Sec. 23 and 24 which give power to Government to prohibit or remove or modify obstructions to the passage of water in channels may create hardship to Sunderban lotdars and tenants as have been already indicated.

Provisions of secs. 26-29A have been framed in such a way as would deprive many bonafide claimants to compensation on extremely technical grounds to get their just dues. In regard to sec. 29 it may be justly asked why the principle of the Land Acquisition Act and the form of legal steps for ascertainment of the amount of compensation and its distribution should not be adopted.

With regard to Sec. 30, which imposes restrictions on enhancement of rent of agricultural lands in notified areas, our Association are of opinion that this provision is entirely one-sided and temporarily abrogates provision of the B T Act regarding enhancement of rent and adds a clause to sec. 178 of that Act further to the detriment of the landlords. The imposition under the proposed Act is to be levied both on the lotdars and on the tenants. And the restriction of the right of the landlords, therefore, will be hard upon them.

Sec. 31B is a bar created as a safeguard in respect of some imaginary injury, damage and loss, which may have the effect of depriving innocent persons of their just dues.

The object of the proposed Act is stated to be to avoid financial difficulty which prevents the Government from taking up works undoubtedly necessary for the prosperity of the Province and the main principle upon which the Bill has been drafted is stated to be that the Government should be entitled to recover a portion of the increased profits which accrue to private individuals and companies from land of any description whether used for agriculture or not. If that is so, the present time is the most inopportune when to pass this Act. In the present critical state of things in the country the legislature should not adopt a measure calculated to benefit the Government to the detriment of the interest not only of private individuals and companies but also of the landlords as provided in sec. 30 of the proposed Act. At any rate our Association think that having regard to the peculiar position of the Sunderbans from the point of view of its physical condition, the laws in force therein, the nature of the rules under which the lands thereof are held and the terms and conditions of the leases under which the lots are now let out, the Sunderbans should be excluded from the operation of the proposed Act.



# The Bengal Landholders' Association

A meeting of the Bengal Landholders' Association was held under the presidentship of the Hon. the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga at his Calcutta residence on Sunday, the 28th July, 1935. Among those present were the Maharaja of Kasimbazar, Raja Bahadur of Nasipur, Col. Hewell of Midnapur Zamindary Co., Kumar Nripondra Chandra Choudhury of Bilasipara, Maharaj Kumar of Darbhanga, Mr. T. C. Goswami, Kumar Ganganand Sinha of Srinagar (Purnea), Rai Bahadur Radhika Bhusan Roy of Tarash, Mr. Sailendranath Mitter of Salboni and Mr. H. N. Guha Roy.

It considered the Bengal Government's proposals for the Delimitation of Constituencies and drafted the reply to be sent on behalf of the Association to the Reforms Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

After some informal discussion, the consideration of the position of the landholders under the new constitution was postponed to the next meeting to be held in winter.

About the Bengal Development Bill, 1935, the following resolution proposed by Maharaja Kumar of Mymensingh and seconded by Maharaja of Kasimbazar, was unanimously adopted.

"This Association of the Landholders of Bengal emphatically protests against the attitude of the Government of Bengal in not giving the public an opportunity of discussing the provisions of the Bengal Development Bill. As this Bill deals with a matter of supreme importance to Bengal, the Association requests the Government to invite public criticism of the measure before its enactment."

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The following reply was sent to the Reforms Commissioner on the question of the Delimitation of Constituencies :

1 & 2, Middleton Street, Calcutta.

*The 28th July, 1935.*

From

The President,  
Bengal Landholders' Association

To

R. N. Gilchrist, Esqr., C.I.E., I.E.S.,  
Reforms Commissioner and Joint Secretary  
( ex-officio ) to the Government of Bengal.

With reference to your letter No. 1283-1452 A. R. dated the 16th July, 1935, I beg to say that the views of the Bengal Landholders' Association in regard to the Delimitation of Constituencies for the Bengal Legislative Assembly and the Bengal Legislative Council under the reformed

constitution are stated below. As the Association has repeatedly protested against the communal decisions, the so-called Poona Pact as well as the recommendations of the Franchise Committee with regard to special seats for the landholders, it should be clearly understood that the expression of its views on the detailed recommendations based on them does not imply that it approves them. It has confined its observations only to matters that were not touched either by the Communal decisions, the Poona Pact or the recommendations of the Franchise Committee.

1. The Association is in favour of the proposal that the number of urban constituencies for the present Bengal Legislative Council should be kept up under the Reformed Constitution and the general urban seats should be spread over all the municipal areas of the Presidency.

2. The Association is, however, not in favour of making any exception in the case of the municipalities in the Darjeeling Hill area. It is of opinion that exclusion will be unjustifiable, and one general seat, set apart for the Darjeeling Hill area, will not satisfy the political aspirations of the people residing there.

3. The Association approves of the adoption of the administrative district as the basic area for distribution.

4. Dacca Urban area is sufficiently important by itself and so in the opinion of the Association the Naraingunge municipal area should form a constituency by itself on account of its great importance as a centre of commercial and trading interest.

5. The Association thinks that the representation of the general Hindu interest in Backergunj is very inadequate. It should have four or at least three seats. It does not see why the district has been treated differently from Howrah and Hughli.

6. Further the Association does not approve of the allocation of one seat to Bengal Mahajan Sabha, one to Marwari Association and one to the Mahamedan Chamber of Commerce. It is of opinion that all the five seats should be allotted to the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, which embraces all Indian Commercial interests in Bengal, irrespective of any caste, creed or community. Indian Commerce should be represented as a whole and not sectionally either on a communal basis or on the basis of separate trades and industries. Such distinctions are not warranted in economic sphere. They instead of strengthening commercial interests tend to introduce an undesirable element of warring sectional interests.

7. Proposals for the composition of the Bengal Legislative Council as contained in the Memorandum, are generally approved by the Association.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- Kameshwara Singh

Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga,  
President,

The Bengal Landholders' Association.

The Association's considered views on the Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935, have been communicated to the Secretary, Bengal Legislative Council. The Association is opposed to plural voting in Municipal elections.

The Association supports the proposed amendment in Section 23 as it is felt that there is no cogent reason why those who pay cart registration fees should be excluded from the franchise. The Association is of opinion that tenants who actually pay taxes should not be excluded from the vote. The Association is unable to support the change in Section 2. The preparation of the voters' list with reference to the number of assessed holding owned by different communities, it is pointed out, will be a cumbrous affair and give rise to complications. The census is a better basis. The Association cannot also support the change in Section 138 as the chairman should never be vested with arbitrary powers. The amendment of Section 142, and changes in clause 6 and 7 are supported as the latter change will obviate disputes and complications at the trial of Municipal cases.

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## Burdwan District Raiyats' Association

In an emergent meeting of the Burdwan District Raiyats' Association held on 5-8-35 to consider the recent amendments to the Bengal Development Bill proposed by the Government it was resolved unanimously

1. That the amendments proposed are sadly disappointing. The maximum levy of Rs. 5-8 per acre sought to be fixed for the Damodar Canal area is much too high, is hopelessly beyond the means of the raiyats and betrays a lack of knowledge of the real conditions of the peasants of the District,
2. That this meeting requests the Government and the members of the Council to reduce the rates substantially, otherwise the raiyats will be ruined,
3. That the Bill does not exempt arid tracts, pastures, water areas and lands that lie uncultivated in particular years for unforeseen circumstances such as sickness of the raiyats, their inability to cultivate, etc. This meeting believes that through oversight the exemption of these tracts were not provided for in the Bill. There can be no meaning in imposing levy on tracts which cannot possibly be benefitted. To impose a levy on such areas is to commit flagrant abuse of justice.

# British Indian Association

## Its Activities and Achievements in regard to the Development Bill.

THE Bengal Development Bill, 1935, introduced by the Hon'ble Irrigation Member, was subjected to a close examination by the British Indian Association. The Association felt that unless objectionable features of the Bill were removed, it would fail to give relief to agriculturists. The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, President, and Mr. Prophanath Singh Roy, Honorary Secretary, British Indian Association, concentrated their efforts on removing the unsatisfactory provisions of the Bill. Mr. Singh Roy discussed the matter with the press representatives and with many non-official members of the Council. The Association did the spade work in mobilising non-official public opinion on the Bill. Informal conferences between the representatives of the British Indian Association and non-official members of the Council were arranged at the Bijay Manzil. The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan drew the attention of the members present to the unsatisfactory provisions of the Bill. Certain definite suggestions emerged out of the informal discussions and those were duly placed before the Government. It is a matter for congratulation that the Government were highly impressed with the contentions placed before them and they accepted the majority of them. Mr. Prophanath Singh Roy on behalf of the Association discussed every amendment proposed by the Select Committee on the Bill with the influential non-official members of the Council. He emphatically held the view that the interests of agriculturists, who would be primarily affected by the Bill, should weigh with the Government in amending the unjust and unwise provisions of the Bill.

The main changes, accepted by the Government, related to exemption of non-agricultural lands from assessment, abatement of levy after recovery of capital expenditure sunk in irrigation works, construction of all improvement works with the sanction of the Bengal Legislative Council, fixation of the maximum of levy in the Damodar Canal and Bakreswar Canal areas, etc. Thus the British Indian Association's contributions to the amended Bengal Development Bill are significant and considerable. The worthy representatives of the Association, the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan (President) and Mr. P. N. Singh Roy (Honorary Secretary) did all they could to get the Bill amended in the interests of the poor ryots of Bengal.

## As You Like It

**T**HREE is a saying in India that people follow their own fashion in the matter of food and drink, but in the matter of dress, fashions are set by others. That is as it should be. Everyone chooses his own special kinds of edibles and beverages and generally has them prepared and served to his own taste and liking. "As you like it" is the principle which is followed for eating and drinking and it is a principle from which one is not prepared to budge an inch.

Some people like their tea, for instance, weak and some strong ; some like it with plenty of sugar and milk, some with milk but without sugar, and yet many others without sugar or milk. There is no other beverage that can satisfy such a wide variety of palates. Make the tea the way you like it, but that does not make the slightest difference to the special quality and wholesomeness of tea as a drink. It is tea that everybody wants, and the rest is only subsidiary. Even though you are used to taking your tea sweet, occasions arise when you probably do not have sugar and milk ready at hand, but that does not deter you from having your very necessary cup of tea at the usual hour.

It is true that to drink tea with milk and sugar is the general practice in India but that is not the only way in which tea can or need be drunk. With the increasing popularity of tea as a drink, people have begun to drink it in many new and interesting ways. If tea is to be drunk for its own merits such as the healthful stimulation it gives to body and mind, neither sugar nor milk seems to be essential for the proper enjoyment of the beverage. A cup of tea, with a piece of fresh lemon to give the brew a little tone, will give you all the satisfaction you want.

Iced tea is an ideal drink for us in this country during the hot weather. It is most simple to make it. For one pint of water take two spoonfuls of tea. Prepare the tea in the proper way and pour the hot tea over ice in a jug. Then add milk and sugar to taste and drink it when it has become absolutely cold.

Drink tea in as many ways as you like, but always drink Indian tea, for there is no better and nicer tea to be had than the tea which India produces.

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## Reviews

**THE INDIAN WHO'S WHO (1935)**—Edited by Mr. W. P. Kabadi and published by him for Yeshanand & Co., Graham's Building, Fort Bombay. Pp. 600. Crown Octavo. Price Rs. 3.

The present work seems to be the first attempt at the compilation of a single and comprehensive volume containing notices not only of prominent Indians in various walks of life but of persons who are associated with India in one way or the other. For such references to Indian notables as are available appear in bigger works dealing with other countries besides India or as portions of works devoted to the treatment of subjects of varied interest, and are necessarily scrappy and unsatisfactory. Numerous photographic reproductions of persons figuring in the book add to its interest.

It would appear, however, to any reviewer of the work that it cannot claim that measure of completeness which it should be in a position to as a satisfactory work of reference in that many notables have not been noted and many others who deserved a fuller and more detailed treatment have, without sufficient reason, been denied the same. The editor, as it appears from his preface, is conscious of these defects and attributes the same to lack of adequate encouragement and co-operation in his work. Having been assured by him that the publication will be an annual feature, we hope that he will avail himself of the earliest opportunity to remove these defects thus ensuring for his work a place among the best known works on the subject in other lands. On the question of get-up we cannot but draw his attention to quite a large number of portraits that have not been satisfactorily reproduced.

**THE LAW OF USURY**—By Khan Bahadur Moulvi Fasihuddin, B.A., M.L.C. (Retired Collector). Price Re. 1 only.

The treatise, short though it is, bears ample testimony to the fine critical acumen and wide sympathies of its author. As mover of a resolution in the Provincial Council, recommending the U. P. Government to appoint a committee to formulate proposals for amending the Usurious Loans Act (1918) and subsequently as chairman of the sub-committee appointed under Government resolution (Dec. 17, 1931) to consider legislative action in connection with certain acts dealing with loan transactions and amendment of the Usurious Loans Act, the author has been in possession of much first-hand information on the question of usury whose incorporation has enhanced the value and interest of his dissertation and strengthened considerably his case. Narrating the circumstances which led him to prepare this note he says: "As chairman of the second sub-committee the writer of this note discovered that there were some misconceptions

about the result of the working of the Usurious Loans Act in these provinces and the divergent views of the various High Courts and the individual judges of one and the same High Court regarding the interpretation of provisions of the Act aggravated the difficulties of the seekers after truth. Even the United Provinces Banking Enquiry Committee to which the question of the desirability of amending this Act was specially referred had to admit that it had received very little evidence on the matter and that whatever evidence was received was conflicting.....The Banking Enquiry Committee remarks—"Nevertheless the absence of the definition of usury must inevitably result in unequal treatment of creditors, because every judge will administer the Act according to his own idea of what constitutes usury."

The various issues raised in connection with the amendment of the Act required clarification, particularly with regard to what constituted 'excessive interest' and what a 'fair transaction', and the author has elucidated them admirably. To alleviate the hardship and misery of the entire body of impecunious borrowers in the country he would have the Act amended in the following principal directions :

(1) Fixing a maximum rate of interest allowable to creditors.

(2) Rigid enforcement of the rule of Damdupat ( in the sense that no creditor can at any time recover from his debtor more than twice the amount loaned out, i.e., the principal and an equal amount as interest).

(3) Registration of moneylenders

(4) Court's power of re-opening loan transactions on the same grounds as in England.

(5) Strict vigilance against the creditors' practice of recording a larger amount of the loan in the deed than what was actually paid to the borrower or securing thumb impressions of the borrowers on blank stamp paper.

It must have gratified the author to note that since the publication of his treatise, not only in his own province but in some other provinces as well steps have been taken both by the Government and the Legislature to amend the 1918 Act in some respects on lines similar to those recommended by him.

**MOTOR-BIJNAN** (in Bengali)—By Kshirode Chandra Gupta. Published by Das Gupta & Co., 54-3, College Street, Calcutta. Price Rs. 2-8 as.

In a province whose public have long been familiar with automobiles of all types and descriptions it is a pity that there has not been available so long any treatise on motor mechanism which may satisfactorily meet the needs of the Bengali-knowing motor mechanics and owners and drivers of motor vehicles. We, therefore, congratulate the author on his production which seems to be the first systematic and comprehensive treatise on the subject. His treatment, moreover, is as simple and lucid as it possibly

could be. He has attempted to help all interested in the subject to an intelligent understanding of it by means of charts and numerous diagrams and illustrations produced at considerable cost. His division of the whole subject into five distinct parts—the generation of power, the transmission of power, the controlling of power, the revolving parts, and ease- and facility-giving devices—and treatment of the same in five different sections are calculated to serve the same end. A chapter on driving and another on various types of engines and 'bodies' together with a glossary of terms used in connection with automobiles add to the usefulness of the book : even the Traffic rules and the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act have been incorporated. The get-up of the book is excellent. In fact the author seems to have spared no pains to make it really useful to all that have to do with the running of automobiles either as a profession or for private service. We wish the author could take out an English edition of this admirable work.

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## Notes \* News \* Comments

### **Madras Government's 10-Year Plan for Agriculture**

In opening the Zamin Ryots' Conference at Tiruttani the Hon'ble Raja of Bobbili, Chief Minister, Madras Government, reviewed the various plans prepared by the Madras Government for ameliorating the conditions of agriculturists.

He said that the scheme to inaugurate a provincial economic council was undoubtedly the most important measure taken up by the local Government since the inauguration of the reformed constitution.

One of the greatest benefits a civilised Government could confer upon an agriculturist province, said the Raja was a reduction of the burden of indebtedness. With that object in view Government proposed to take practical steps on the report on ryots' debts, submitted by the special officer appointed to conduct the inquiry.

One of the first subjects which will be considered by the provincial economic council will be a 10-year plan for agriculture, which will include measures to increase the Presidency's rice production.

Government were also working out a scheme to enable each panchayat to start and run a co-operative society in order to provide cheap credit for agricultural operations, a supply of good manures and implements for ryots. The Department of Industries had been asked to work out a plan for financing and marketing the minor industries, popularly known as cottage industries, with special reference to hand-loom weaving.

Reference was made to a comprehensive scheme of road development, to cost Rs. 5 crores, which was being prepared. It was mainly intended to provide communications throughout the year for all the bigger villages, so as to enable ryots to take their produce to the nearest market. The 10-year scheme would also provide for pure water supply in every village.

The economic council would work out a scheme for bringing all boys of school-going age to elementary schools where education would be given with an agricultural bias. Agricultural farms will be started in villages or groups of villages.

Government had in mind, said the minister, a scheme of constructing warehouses at suitable centres, where ryots could store their produce and sell it only when market conditions were favourable. In brief Government's aim was to provide universal primary education, all-weather communications to the villages, protected water supply and cheap electricity to the rural areas.

In conclusion the Raja of Bobbili advised the zemindars to follow the example of their class in England and to make a contribution towards advancing the science of agriculture by providing better facilities for their ryots and by adopting improved methods of intensive cultivation on modern lines.

### The New Sterling Loan

In the early days of July, the Government of India issued a 3 per cent sterling loan for £ 10 million at £ 98 per cent, redeemable between 1949 and 1952. The list remained open in London on the 11th July for only 11 minutes and the loan was many times oversubscribed. Subscriptions were invited in India too, and applications sent to the Reserve Bank on the 11th July would naturally be considered at the time of allotments. It is doubtful however whether there were many applicants from India, excepting, of course, some big institutions and some big individuals.

It may be doubted whether a sterling loan of the type issued was really necessary. In spite of the attempts of Indian speculators to depress the 3½ per cent paper, the terminable loans continue in good demand, and the 3½ per cent 1947-50 loan, of nearly the same currency as the new sterling issue, has an yield of 3 2 per cent, practically the same as that from the new loan. The Government could therefore have easily raised the loan in India at the same sacrifice. It would also have brought the income tax to the Indian Exchequer. And we think that the Government have raised the loan in England at a higher cost than they need have paid, for money is extremely cheap in England to-day. Issues in the London money market are extremely poor, and money is simply waiting to be loaned. The City Corporation of Great Britain have been able to issue their loans at better terms during recent weeks, and we do not think that the Government of India's credit stands lower in England than those of Great Britain's City Corporations. That this is not so is proved by the fact that the loan was many times oversubscribed, the total amount offered being £ 72 millions. We think, under these conditions, the Government of India might have raised the loan in England at a lower cost or in India at the same cost.

In considering the appropriateness of the loan, there are of course other points to be considered like the conditions of exchange and the level of security prices. It is not possible to discuss these points here in detail but we think the loan might have been raised in India, without prejudicing either the exchange or the level of security prices.

It might of course be pointed out that the Government is issuing a rupee loan of Rs. 25 crores in India—it has already been announced and applications will be received from the 5th of August—and it would perhaps not have been possible to raise both the loans in India without paying a higher rate. But we do not think that could have been the case, and at least the Government could have tapped the resources of India first, before going outside.

### Bengal Jute Restriction

The Bengal Government are to be congratulated for having made up at last their mind on the question of continuing their policy of restriction in the coming jute season. Their recent communique on the subject will bring relief to many thousands of homes in the province which derive their

sustenance direct from the jute trade and many thousands of others who know that their prosperity and well-being have an indirect relation to the prosperity and well-being of the jute-growers. The announcement has immediately resulted in a firmness of tone in the jute market. The cultivators have been saved the prospect of being thrown so soon again into a period of drastically unremunerative prices such as obtained for a number of years previous to the last, unless hostile forces combine and prove strong enough to thwart the natural and probable effect of restriction. We are glad that the doubts and apprehensions which prevailed in the province since the publication of the earlier communique have been removed before any serious injury resulted therefrom to the jute trade. The public are now in eager expectation of the Government announcement in regard to the amount to be restricted. They are also expecting the Government to devote closer attention than before to the question of finding profitable substitutes for jute on lands released from the same and to convey with alacrity and through proper channels their suggestions to the cultivators on this point.

### **India's Handloom Industry**

The handloom industry is acknowledged to be India's leading cottage industry. It supports hundreds of thousands of persons, and its importance to our national economy cannot be doubted. Like all our cottage industries however, it is in none too flourishing a condition and is fighting a losing battle against the big mills. It is essential that the industry should be subjected to a thorough scrutiny and should be completely reorganised on more efficient and productive lines. The weavers should be familiarised with improved methods of production and the use of new machines and tools; the marketing system should be placed on a fairer and a more satisfactory footing and cheaper credit should be provided.

Little had hitherto been done in this direction, and it is really gratifying to find that the Government is at last waking up to a sense of its responsibilities in the matter. Following the grant of funds by the Legislative Assembly, Rs. 5,73,500 have already been distributed between different provinces, and with the assistance of these funds, various schemes have already been started in different parts of the country, for the improvement of the industry. In the coming session of the Industries Conference, which is proposed to be held at New Delhi on October 28 and 29, the main subject of discussion, it is declared, will be the handloom industry. The whole industry will come in for a review, the schemes in operation in the various provinces would be evaluated, and attempts will be made to find out better ones.

We wish the conference all success in its worthy endeavour.

### **Sugar Research**

It is understood that the Sugar Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has resolved to recommend to the Government of

India that two annas of the sugar excise duty be earmarked for research work in sugar. The committee adopted the resolution after a comprehensive review of research work done in sugar since the passing of the Sugar Industry Protection Act, which granted protection to the Indian sugar industry for an initial period of seven years, and also guaranteed the rate of protection. The progress of the research work, however, has not been as great as was expected. In the opinion of the Commission, if the rate of progress is not accelerated, the Indian sugar industry would not be able to become self-supporting at the end of the present period of protection. The main cause of this slow progress is that adequate funds for sugar research work have not been forthcoming, and that the Central Research Institute was started much later than what should have been the case.

The Tariff Board had recommended that at least Rs. 10 lakhs should be spent on sugar research work. The Act however did not provide for this grant, but there was an arrangement that Government would provide for sugar research such money as they thought desirable. The result has been inadequate funds, which has held up many a sanctioned scheme of sugar research. The sooner this situation is remedied the better. The sugar industry, under the shelter of tariff walls, has developed into one of India's principal manufacturing industries. The importance of the sugar industry and of sugar-cane cultivation needs no stressing. If they are to be properly developed, adequate funds should be devoted to research work in the laboratory where improvements should be tried and tested, and the Sugar Committee has done the right thing in focussing attention to it.

### **Progress of Education in Bombay**

During the year 1933-4 Bombay has recorded quite a substantial progress in education in almost all directions. Of the total number of pupils under instruction in recognised institutions 10,26,000 were boys and 3,07,000 were girls, showing increase of 19,000 and 15,000 respectively over last year's figures. The Government resolution on the year's report states that during the year there has been an increase of three colleges and 1,124 students. The Post-Graduate Department of the University has been further strengthened during the same year by the opening of a Department of Chemical Technology. Particularly gratifying is the progress in women's education. The number of girl students increased by 16,000, or by over five per cent over the previous year's figure.

Simultaneously with this increase in the number of students there has been a corresponding increase in the money spent on education. The total expenditure on public instruction was increased by about Rs. 17 lakhs in 1933-34 and reached the total of Rs. 3,98,10,000. Of the total expenditure, 44·2 per cent was met from provincial revenue, 19·4 per cent from funds of local bodies, 23·2 per cent from fees, and 13·2 per cent from miscellaneous sources.

### Bombay Co-operative Societies Act (Amendment) Bills

The text of the two official bills to amend the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act and the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act has been published. The statements of objects and reasons say :

By a resolution, dated March 29, 1935, the Legislative Council has approved the proposal of Government to establish Land Mortgage Banks in the Presidency, and to guarantee the payment of principal as well as interest of debentures, issued by those banks. Section 33A read with 71 (2) (c) of the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, 1925, empowers Government to guarantee the payment of the principal of such debentures as well.

It is provided by section 59 (2) of the Act that if property "attached" in execution of an order under sub-section (1) cannot be sold for want of buyers, it can be handed over to the Co-operative Society on such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon.

It is provided in the present Amending Bill that the court of the Collector may direct any property which cannot be sold for want of buyers to be transferred to the Society at the instance of which execution is stayed. The Bill also provided that the society will hold such property subject to any lawful rights, charges, encumbrances or equities. Provision is also made for validating the transfers already made.

The above two amending bills for which the Bombay Government seek legislative sanction only show that they are keenly watching the development of the few Land Mortgage Banks which have been opened under the auspices of their Co-operative Department and that they are solicitous of removing all clogs to the successful working of these long term credit institutions. It well behoves a Provincial Government which was one of the earliest to realise the importance of land mortgage banks as aids to agricultural improvement.

### The All-Bengal and Assam Lawyers' Conference

The All-Bengal and Assam Lawyers' Conference which came off in the beginning of July did the proper thing in drawing attention to "the growing tendency of the legislatures to oust the jurisdiction of courts of law on matters affecting civil rights of the subject, and to transfer jurisdiction on such matters to executive officers of the Government". The Bengal Development Bill was cited as seeking to oust the jurisdiction of the civil courts to adjudicate on the justice or otherwise of the levy imposed by the executive on the people. A similar opinion was expressed on the alarming increase of legislative powers vested in the executive by recent legislation encroaching on civil rights.

This "new despotism", which has grown to serious proportions, is really alarming and the Conference did a service to the country by drawing the attention of the Government as well as of the people to it.

The Conference also referred to the increasing interference with the independence of the legal profession which tends to make the profession

**unduly subservient to the judiciary and is not conducive to the interests of justice either.**

The Conference also passed several resolutions, the most important of which is the following :

(a) That this conference strongly condemns, as most reactionary and subversive of all principles of progressive and enlightened administration of justice, the provisions in the Government of India Bill, now before the Parliament, relating to the High Courts and the subordinate civil and criminal judiciary in India.

(b) This conference is of opinion that :

- (1) the abrogation of the present statutory restrictions that not more than one-third of the total number of judges should consist of I.C.S. members ;
- (2) the eligibility of I.C.S. judges to permanent appointments as Chief Justices ;
- (3) the continuance of recruitment of judges from the United Kingdom on the plea of "maintenance of British legal traditions" ;
- (4) the placing of High Courts, especially the Calcutta High Court under provincial Governments, empowering the latter to have administrative control over them ,
- (5) the taking away of the present rights of High Courts with regard to appointment, promotion and transfer of subordinate judiciary ,
- (6) giving statutory recognition to the most objectionable principle of communal proportion in the matter of appointment and recruitment to all grades of judicial service ; and
- (7) the complete negation of the demand for separation of judicial from executive functions, by making postings and promotions of officers of criminal magistracy depend upon recommendations of district magistrates .

will have a disastrous effect upon the administration of justice, and this conference regrets that no consideration had been given to the united protests of all Bar Associations throughout the country during the passage of the Bill through the House of Commons

### **Nazification of the New Penal Code in Germany**

Obviously Herr Hitler will not stop before revolutionizing every aspect of German life and the latest subject to undergo remodelling at the hands of the "Furher" is the criminal law of Germany. The new "Reich" cannot certainly remain under the old law, and a new Legal Code is now being prepared by Herr Schafer of the Ministry of Justice. The New Code, like everything new, will be directed to maintain the Nazi regime, and a series of new penal offences has been incorporated to that end. These new offences introduced for the further protection of the state are :

1. Calumny of the people.
2. Disparagement of German History.
3. Bringing into contempt the historical figures revered as incorporating German ideals. (Is not Hitler one of them ?)
4. Malicious attempts to diminish the glory of the deeds performed by the German Army or German soldiers.

5. Attacks on marriage and the family.
6. Malicious disposal of family property.

Special provisions have been made for the protection of the prestige of the Nazi movement. The assassination or attempted assassination of the Leader is in a category by itself as the most serious crime which any German can commit.

One would like to know how Hegel would have delighted to see this realisation of his "idea" of the state in his beloved Prussia.

### Bengal Development Bill, 1935

The following observations by Rural Vignette on the Bengal Development Bill, contained in an article published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* represent a certain extreme view-point and as such will be read with interest.

It is contended on behalf of Government that the Development Bill is a unique measure. The public of Bengal had had the experience of similar measures. The Bengal Canals Act 1864 authorised Government to make and open any navigable channel, or to clear and deepen any navigable channel and to stop any water-course or make any tracking path or do any other act necessary for the making or improvement of any such channel. The Bengal Irrigation Act, 1876, provided for irrigation in the province and for levy of water rate which is deemed to be rent. The Bengal Drainage Act, 1880 was a measure for better drainage and improvement of lands. The Bengal Embankment Act of 1882 was enacted to make better provision for the constructions, maintenance, and management of embankments and water-courses. The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act of 1895 was a measure to facilitate the construction of drainage works for improving the sanitary condition of local areas. The Development Bill under review is in no way an improvement upon the measures catalogued above. Then the question naturally arises, why this fuss about the Development Bill?

The objective of the Bill one may suspect, is not to make any "improvement work" but to recover the huge sum of money invested on the Damodar Canal and the Bakreswar Canal. Under the Irrigation Act, 1876, the levy of water rate was not compulsory and naturally the Government felt handicapped in recovering the money. The present Bill is a compulsory taxation measure and by authorising Government to impose a levy in respect of increased profits resulting from improvement works constructed before the commencement of this Act has vitiated the 'bonafide' of the Government for future improvement works. When there is anxiety for making the provisions of the Bill retrospective, it is clear that Government is looking back, not pursuing forward. The whole story of Government solicitude for the welfare of Bengal can now be discredited. Section 5B of the Bill belies the hope that Government are sincere in their profession.

"Notwithstanding the proviso to section 5A, an improvement levy may, subject to the provisions of this Act, be imposed in respect of the Damodar Canal (including the Eden Canal) and the Bakreswar Canal without a recommendation from the Bengal Legislative Council."

### Bee-keeping in Punjab

Mr. F. L. Brayne, M.C., I. C. S., the able and indefatigable officer under Punjab Government working in the cause of rural development, has issued the following statement to the Press in order obviously to promote bee-keeping in his province. But we think his suggestions and advice should reach a wider circle—men of other provinces too, to be acted upon by them to their advantage. The possibilities of bee-keeping as a lucrative

cottage industry are unknown in the Punjab as elsewhere. So far as we are aware the subject is studied somewhat scientifically only at Coimbatore and Mysore in South India, and primitive methods are followed almost everywhere both in the rearing of bees and the extraction of honey.

**Mr. Brayne says :**

Of the finest cottage industries which requires practically no outlay, is honey production. Very little is yet known about bee-keeping in the Punjab and here is an excellent opportunity to start a most profitable new industry. There seems no reason why zemindars should not take it up with the help, if possible, of neighbouring missionaries who in their youth, like myself, helped their fathers with bees and they only have to rake up their knowledge and practice of handling these dear little creatures to be able to keep bees again. There must be honey crops in Punjab, and if berseem (Egyptian clover) proves to be a good honey crop, then there is no gigantic opening for bee-keeping, as berseem is the coming fodder crop of the Punjab. If berseem is as good as white clover, then every acre of berseem will probably produce a maund of honey.

The best English honey is sold, without difficulty at Rs 1-8 a pound in the Punjab, but Indian honey at present is only worth a fraction of this. In the first place Indian honey very often has strong taste, because it is collected by the bees from trees such as the 'kikar' and others which give it a strong and, to many, a disagreeable flavour. In the second place most domestic honey in India is gathered in such a crude and prehistoric way that there is lot of rubbish mixed up with honey. If honey is to be pure, the bees must be kept properly and the honey must be taken from them in the proper way. If honey is to taste nice, it must be collected from the properly honey-bearing trees and plants such as fruit trees, heather, white clover, etc.

There is nothing very difficult about bee-keeping but it must be learnt like everything else, and above all the handling of bees requires practice. Handling of bees cannot be learnt from a book any more than the training of horses can be done by mere book knowledge. The handling of bees can be only learnt by actually handling them, in the same way as the riding and training of horses can only be learnt by actually sitting on the horse and training.

Bee-keeping has made great strides in the last 30 years and a great deal of research has been done as a result of which both disease can be checked and the swarming of bees controlled, and generally honey production has been made a more certain and satisfactory industry than it used to be in the old days. Even now, however, in modern England bees are still kept by some people in the old way. A neighbour of mine in England still keeps his bees in a straw "skip", as it is called, and when he wants the honey, he suffocates the bees with sulphur. His practice is 40 years out of date, but there are plenty of old-fashioned people in England just as there are in the Punjab. Bee hives in England can in a good year, be made to produce 100 lbs. of honey each, but even if each hive in the Punjab, could only be made to produce at its best 30 or 40 lbs., bee-keeping would still be a profitable cottage industry. Why should not the Court of Wards Estate or other enterprising villagers be pioneers in the new industry of bee-keeping in the Punjab?

### Rural Development in Bihar

The Bihar Government's scheme of allotting the Government of India's grant of Rs. 12,50,000 among the different heads of expenditure in connection with rural development is now definitely known. Rs. 6 lakhs will be devoted to the development of village communications which is one of the pressing needs of the province. The money earmarked for the purpose will, in the first instance, be spent on provision or improvement of cart tracks connecting the villages with the markets and railways. The next important claim is that of rural water supply to which will be allotted

**Rs. 5 lakhs.** The need for the construction of more wells and small irrigation dams is almost universal in the province. It is reported that in spending this sum the need of the depressed classes will be strictly kept in view. Rs. 1 lakh will be spent on miscellaneous projects in North Bihar such as the drainage of "chaurs" for bringing spoiled lands under cultivation and the desilting of tanks. Rs. 50,000 will be spent on village welfare schemes : the idea is to set up a number of village organisations which are capable of self-development and which will be expected to work out a comprehensive programme including the introduction of improved methods of agriculture, the encouragement of cottage industries, the improvement of village sanitation, the provision of good drinking water, etc.

The division of the total allotment (excluding Rs. 50,000 for village welfare schemes) according to the several Divisions of the province will be as follows :

Patna Division Rs. 1,00,000 for village communications, and Rs 50,000 for rural water supply , Tirhut Division Rs. 65,000 for village communications, Rs 35,000 for rural water supply and Rs. 1,00,000 for miscellaneous projects , Bhagalpur Division Rs. 65,000 for village communications, Rs. 35,000 for rural water supply and Rs. 1,00,000 for miscellaneous projects ; Bhagalpur Division Rs 1,00,000 for village communications and Rs. 1,00,000 for rural water supply ; Orissa Division Rs. 1,50,000 for village communications and Rs 1,00,000 for rural water supply and Chota Nagpur Division Rs. 1,00,000 for village communications and Rs. 1,50,000 for rural water supply

Rs. 1,50,000 will be held as reserve in the hands of the local Government which it will allocate later on.

While each district is allotted a sum of Rs. 50,000, the allocation of this amount among the different heads of development will be at the discretion of the Commissioners. For each work of improvement the local public will be consulted by the District Magistrate. Excepting important irrigation projects which will be carried out with the help of the Irrigation Department, all other schemes will be worked by the villagers themselves.

The most commendable feature of the scheme is the proposal to make the rural folk think and work for themselves and get them really interested in the works. It is reported that preference will be given to those schemes in which the villagers will show their readiness to co-operate by making free gifts of lands for wells and village roads and by providing labour free or on reduced wages.

### Famine in Birbhum

We have received the following communication from Mr. Nityanarayan Banerjee, zamindar, Labpur, Birbhum on the acute distress which prevails in the district consequent on the failure of rains last year.

It will be seen that Mr. Banerjee follows up his statement of the situation by what he thinks to be necessary to meet it. We invite the attention of the Government and of the British Indian Association and the Bengal

**Landholders' Association, to all of which he has appealed, to this and request them to do the needful.**

Famine has already been declared in Birbhum by the Government and several thousand rupees have been sanctioned by it for relief work. This famine is due to crop failure of 1934-35; but the rainy season of this year threatens another serious crop failure. Generally by this month almost all the lands are put under cultivation, but this year seldom any paddy could be sown. Already there are reports of paddy loots and hundreds of people are found wandering from village to village searching for work. But who is to employ them? The situation is threatening to be very serious. People are still hoping against hope for rain and an insignificant minority are somehow living on the paltry reserve from last year which would in no time be exhausted.

If the rains really play the dreadful trick, which it now threatens to, one can only imagine what the situation would be. Already there is a severe scarcity of water in villages, domestic animals are hardly getting enough to drink. Last year the tanks and wells had some water due to year before last's good rains but this year if there be no rain, tanks and wells will all go dry. The water of Mayurakshi river is even now as transparent as in winter, there has not been an increase in its water level by so much as an inch up to the present day. So, without rain, there is no hope of cultivation from the reserve water of tanks and rivers. People are panic-stricken, landlords hopeless.

I would ask the Government to come forward to render more effective help at this critical hour. More relief work is needed. People have lost faith in unofficial relief works run with the help of Government contributions. This is not the place to answer the why? But it is a fact and I request the Government to take up relief work under its direct supervision.

Rents should be remitted. People cannot have two full meals daily, wherefrom will they meet the rental dues? The zemindars are not unaware of this but they cannot remit any rent unless they are assured by the Government of postponement of revenue.

If the Government do not consider this matter seriously and take immediate action, naturally for the sake of their own existence, the zemindars would have to try all means to collect rent, would sue and apply coercive measures. If the hunger-striken disappointed peasants are pressed hard, there is every chance of serious disturbances. They have nothing to give; and if in spite of this, they are forced to part with their dwellings, their agricultural lands—their only future hope in payment of their dues, they may rebel and that rebellion would be of serious nature indeed. But patudars and zemindars too are helpless, for their own existence, they will have to try all means to squeeze money out of the destitute tenantry.

The catastrophe can only be averted by timely considerations by the Government. If the Government postpone the collection of revenue and realise the same in easy instalments in the next few years, peasants can demand the remission which they so well deserve.

I draw the attention of the British Indian Association and the Bengal Landholders' Association to this matter.

### **Rural Uplift in the Punjab**

It is with real pleasure that we learn that the Government of India have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 for rural development in the Punjab. The amount will be distributed among Deputy Commissioners in the Province who have been given complete discretion to utilise their share of the grant in any way they consider best for the development of their Districts.

We think the Deputy Commissioners may be very good as administrators but they may not be persons best fit to judge of rural development.

### The Lloyd Barrage

The Lloyd (Sukkur) Barrage is the most important of its kind in India, and it would be interesting to know how it has been working. The final figures showing the results of the operation of the Barrage canals during the "Kharif" season of 1934-5, the third "kharif" season of operation since the opening of the Barrage, are now available and we proceed to give them below.

The "kharif" cultivation over the whole of the Barrage area amounted to 1,624,994 acres which represents 98 p.c. of the acreage forecast of the year under reference and 75 p.c. of that anticipated after the full development of the scheme has been attained. The total area under cotton cultivation during the season amounted to 676,000 acres compared with the 576,000 acres forecast for the year. The normal total pre-Barrage area of cotton cultivation for the whole of Sind amounted to 280,000 acres only and the large increase already achieved is significant. 506,000 acres under rice crop were irrigated by the waters of the Barrage canals, and other "khariffs" mainly "Bajri" and "Jowari" amounted to 414,000 acres.

Remembering that inundation during the season was an unfavourable one, scarcity of supplies being felt acutely in areas outside the command of the Barrage, the results achieved cannot but be considered as eminently satisfactory.

### Co-operative Movement in Bengal

Assuredly the co-operative movement is one of the most effective instruments of rural uplift and rural development that we have in this country. The two evils which, more than anything else, are weighing down our agriculturists and depressing our agriculture, are rural indebtedness and marketing difficulties. They rob the poor peasant of his profit and deprive him of any incentive to better his condition or improve his land. The co-operative movement, it is agreed on all hands, is best fitted to lift their deadweights and fight these evils. Co-operative credit societies will eliminate the "mahajan", and co-operative marketing societies will do the same with the exploiting middleman.

These things have been recognised by the Government as well as by the people and for thirty years we have been witnessing a co-operative movement in Bengal. The movement, however, has been progressing very slowly and very shakily too, and it is time enough that something is done to brace it up.

With a view to that, Mr. N. K. Basu moved a sesolution in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 22th of July last, critising the present administration of the Co-operative Department in this province, and asking that a committee be immediately appointed with a non-official majority to enquire into the administration of the Department and the appointment of officers therein.

The results of the working of the Department, said Mr. Basu, were disappointing, and he produced figures for 1933 to prove his case.

The Minister, in reply, said that "the working of the movement has been reviewed in recent years by more than one authoritative body, and has also been receiving every attention from the Government, in consultation with such an expert co-operator as Mr. Darling". "The appointment of the committee at this stage," continued the Minister, "is not only not necessary but will serve to delay matters."

We think, however, that in spite of the Government's consulting Mr. Darling, it would do no harm to appoint a committee, as Mr. Basu has asked for with a non-official majority. The one does not exclude the other and the fact that the Government is consulting an expert shows that there is need for a committee of enquiry. Such a committee with a non-official majority is all the more needed, as Mr. Darling has very little experience of local conditions, having passed most of his time in the Punjab where things are so different. We hope the Government will realise it, and appoint a committee of enquiry with a non-official majority.

The debate on Mr. Basu's motion has been adjourned to August 20.

### Aims of the Congress Socialists

The General Secretary of the All-India Congress Socialist Party has in a published circular set forth the aims of his party. "Although" says the circular, "there is hardly anything in the present programme of the Congress to interest us, we should on no account isolate ourselves. Our first concern should be influence on the rank and file of the Congress with a view to dividing the party not into Socialists and anti-Socialists but into militant Nationalists and compromising Moderates".

As regards the peasants and workers the circular suggests that Socialists may even join in the constructive work of the Congress, if no other way of making contact with the villages is possible. And though there is hardly anything in the present programme of the Congress to interest the Socialists, in all those activities of the Congress on which they have no disagreement, they should, declares the circular, take part.

The author of the circular considers that with patient propaganda and contact, it will not be at all difficult to induce the masses to accept socialism. Comment on this modern Alnaskar's dream would be superfluous.

### Communal Bias in Franchise Scheme

Mr. Nityanarayan Banerjee writing from Labpur invites the attention of all, particularly the Hindu zemindars, to a serious iniquity involved in the exclusion of the Managers and Trustees of Debutter estates from franchise under the new scheme proposed for Bengal. We agree that the exception in respect of these individuals or bodies who would happen to be Hindu zemindars is hardly fair and that the general body of such zemindars should make honest and strenuous endeavour to have this

**particular disability of their community removed from the franchise scheme. This is what Mr. Banerjee says :**

Nowadays the zemindars are regarded as a menace to society, though a little close and sober thinking would reveal that zemindars' contribution towards the educational, social and political uplift of the country is unparalleled. No other community's accumulated gifts towards hospitals, schools, dispensaries, new business enterprises and to other departments of social and political uplift would exceed those of the zemindars. Still the latter are now looked down upon by the press and the public, only because, it seems, of their sympathy and support to the existing Government.

But now the Government has turned its face against them. All efforts of the eminent landlords made individually or through associations to procure more seats in the new constitution have failed. In the existing constitution the zemindars have five seats. The total number of seats in the Council has been increased considerably in the new constitution but the number of seats of the zemindars remains unchanged. Now in a house of 250 members only 5 zemindars will cut a very sorry figure indeed.

But the indifference has not ended there. There is more in store for the zemindars, particularly the Hindu zemindars. The rules framed by the Government for preparing the voter's list has added to the iniquity.

No trustee of any estate is eligible to be a voter of the zemindar group. The exception is for the "Sebayets" and "Mutwalis" of Debutter and Wakf Estates. In the same para the Mahomedans are favoured by some more exceptions: "Manager and Trustees of a Wakf Estate" are declared eligible for this purpose. What fault is with the Manager and Trustee of a Debottor Estate? Why is this exception? Will the Government make it clear why the Managers and Trustees of Debutter Estates should not enjoy the same rights as those of the Wakf Estates?

It is a well-known fact that the number of Hindu zemindars is much greater than that of Mahomedan zemindars, so naturally the Hindus will enter into the legislature in greater number under this group. The above exceptions are calculated to restrict Hindus to a certain extent from occupying the zemindars' seats.

The Hindu zemindars cannot be blamed if they take this as a further evidence of the Governments' apathy towards them. Starting from Sir B. L. Mitter's speech in the All-Bengal Landholders' Conference the zemindars have on many occasions been rated unjustly but the insult and apathy to Hindu zemindars were never so great as in this matter.

The Government has called for public and individual opinion on their proposed schemes of constituencies, so we may take this clause to be still subject to revision and modification. We should emphatically protest against the exception clause and demand equal rights of the Trustees and Managers of the Debottor and the Wakf Estates.

### **Raja of Mahmudabad and Rural Uplift**

A deputation led by Rai Bahadur Kunwar Maheshwar Dayal Seth, President of the District Association, Sitapur, recently waited upon Raja Mohammad Amir Ahmad Khan Bahadur, Taluqdar of Mahmudabad, in order to enlist his support for the work of rural uplift in the Sitapur District. The Raja Sahib promised every help and support and generously gave Rs. 500 towards the funds of the Association. He heartily welcomed the members of the Deputation, lavishly entertained them in luncheon and showed them his library consisting of several thousand valuable books on Urdu literature, English poetry and history. The cause of rural uplift is already getting active support from the manager and the assistant manager of the Raja Sahib's estate.

### **Raja of Daiya for the Legislative Council**

Raja Bhagwati Singh of Daiya is standing for election to the United Provinces Legislative Council from the Allahabad District Non-Muslim

Constituency and the probability is that he will be returned unopposed. He is a very influential landholder of the District, has been Chairman of the District Board for the last seven years and is a Vice-President of the Agra Province Zemindars' Association. His record of public work has secured for him the full support of the members of the District Board and of a large number of other influential men.

### Taluqdar of Maurawan

Our congratulation to Mr. Hari Ram Seth, Taluqdar of Maurawan, on his having passed the Final Law Examination in the First Division this year. He is the first Taluqdar law graduate in the Unaо District, and a bright future is assured to him.

### Sir B. P. Singh Roy at Salar

The Hon. Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, Minister for Local Self-Government, paid recently a visit to Salar in Murshidabad district and laid the foundation stone of the *ghat* of the King's Silver Jubilee Tank. He was later entertained by Mr. K. Ali Afzal at a luncheon.

### Notable Donations

On the occasion of the recent visit of their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon to the Bengal Home Industries Association, Mr. Shew Kissen Bhatter has, it is understood, announced a donation of Rs. 50,000 to the Association to provide a part of the working capital urgently needed by it.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Raja of Jharia has granted a plot of land for the Dhanbad Girls' School premises.

### OBITUARY

Nawab Syed Moinuddin Husain Meerza, M.L.C., (Bihar) and proprietor of Khagra Estate, Kishanganj, Purnea, died recently in the Itki Sanatorium, Ranchi. He was nearly 48 years old. He was the son of the late Nawab Syed Ata Husain of Khagra Estate. He is survived by his widow, five sons, and three daughters. We deeply mourn his loss and convey our sincere condolence to the bereaved family.

\* \* \* \* \*

The death has occurred of Sir Deb Prasad Sarbadhikary, following an attack of blood pressure, at his Calcutta residence at the age of 75. The deceased was for long an outstanding personality in Bengal, nay, the whole of India. A brilliant scholar, a veteran educationist, a luminary of the legal profession Sir Deb Prasad was the recipient of profuse and well-deserved honours at the hands of his contemporaries and his country's Government. He was a Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and a member of Lytton Commission (London), Paddison Commission (South Africa) and the League of Nations (Geneva). He was a member for several years of the Calcutta Corporation, the Imperial Library, the Indian Museum, the Calcutta Temperance Federation, the Calcutta Rotary Club, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, the Imperial Council, Universities' Congress of the Empire, Bangiya Sahitya Parisad, Indian Association and many other important public institutions. His literary activities included the conduct of a number of journals both Bengali and English, contributions to numerous others and the writing of some well-known books in Bengali. Himself a good sportsman, he took keen interest in sports, specially cricket. A strain of deep religiosity and piety marked his character.

We offer our sincerest condolence to the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace!

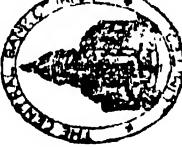
## **EDITOR'S NOTICE.**

*The "Landholders' Journal" is, as its title indicates, the accredited organ of the landholding community of India. It has come into existence to promote the interests—political, social and economic, of the landholding classes, and must necessarily depend for its success on the active co-operation and assistance of the community which it serves.*

*The policy of the Journal is progressive and dictated by one ideal—progress of the country as a whole along constitutional lines and without impairment of the basic rights of the zamindar community closely allied as they are with those of their tenants.*

*The Editor cordially invites articles and contributions on problems of interest to the country in general and to the landholding community in particular, items of personal and district news, reports of political and social events, autobiographical and biographical sketches with photographs of prominent members of the landholding community and photographs of general topical interest.*

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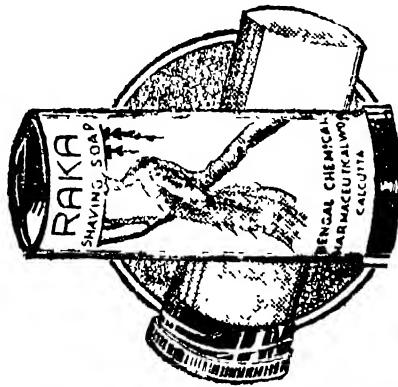
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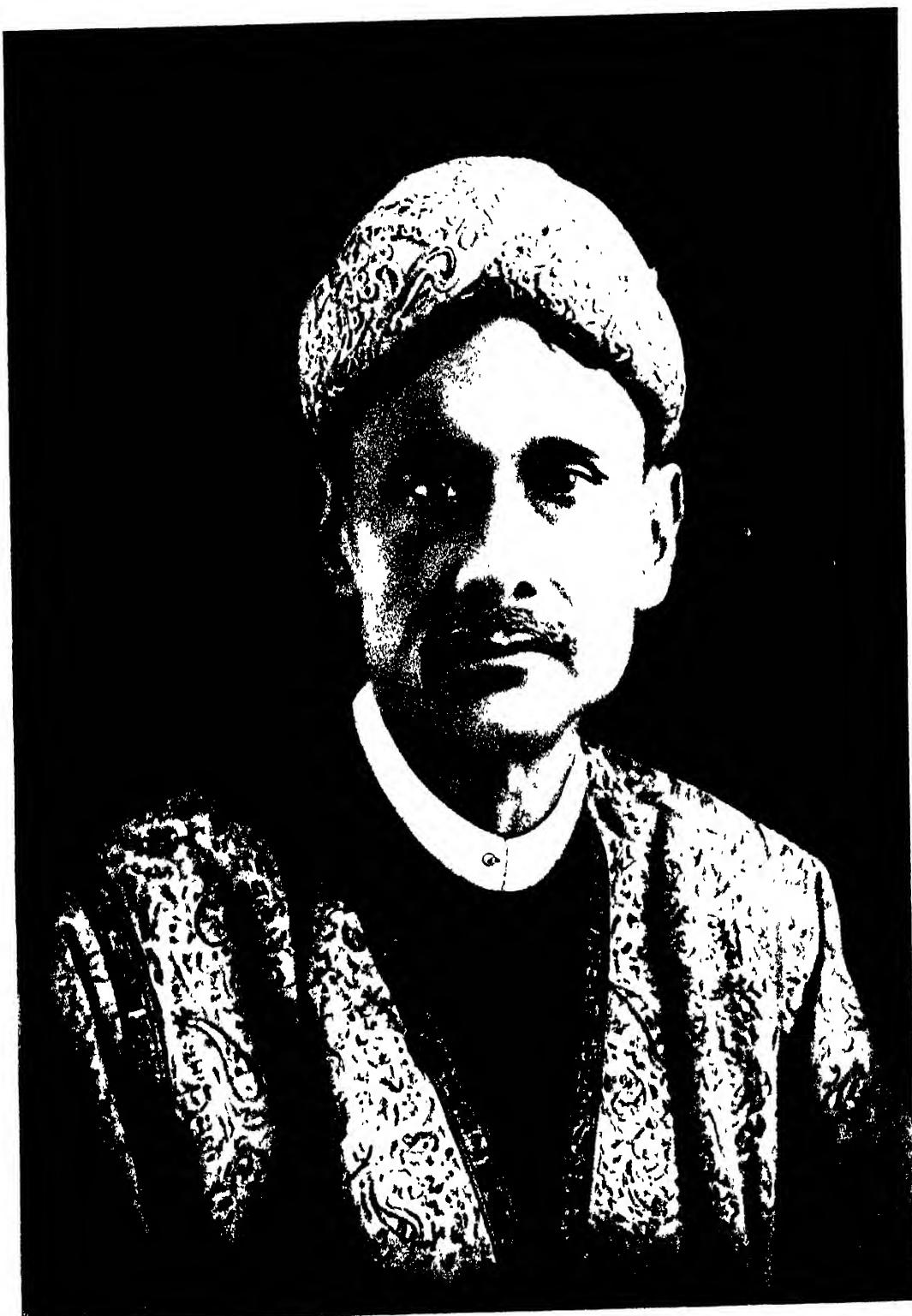
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KUMAR BRINDABON CHUNDER LAW



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## Makers of Future India

The famous Roman statesman Cato developed such an intense hatred for Carthage that he would—whatever the occasion or the subject matter of debate in the Roman senate—conclude all his speeches with the perpetual burden—*delenda est Carthago* (Carthage must be destroyed). Some of our countrymen and politicians have suddenly become so keen and enthusiastic supporters of the people's cause that their solicitude for the masses has created in them what may be appropriately termed zemindar phobia. If there is famine in the country the zemindars are responsible ; if there is flood the blame is laid at the door of the zemindars ; if there is an outbreak of cholera the zemindar must have a hand in it ; if any bill is introduced, amended, passed or lost in the legislatures of the country, whatever its incidence or objects, the ghost of zemindar is working from behind. The zemindar community have become for no conceivable reasons the target of attack from all quarters. No opportunity is missed to have sharp flings at them.

Whenever we try to find a basis for the growing hostility entertained by a portion, by no means inconsiderable, of our people towards the great landholding community of India certain factors strike us as being responsible, more or less, for the unenviable position in which members of the community find themselves to-day. Like the diversion in the course of a river which deprives flourishing cities on its bank of their original usefulness, altered circumstances in the country have thrown the landholding community in such a predicament that they find themselves unable to contribute as much to the good of the country and the people as they wish.

We do not deny, however, that there has been a great falling off in the standard, outlook and breadth of vision of the community. Narrowness of mind, prejudices and selfish interests have so possessed the members of the landholding community, that their judgment has become perverted and this has inevitably led to ill adjustment between ideas of rights and responsibilities. We are also not unconscious of the want of proper training for public life among most of the members of the community. Dearth of capable leaders to comprehend the community's needs and requirements, to chalk out a programme to meet those requirements and to guide the community with a view to rehabilitate it to its proper position of helpful benefit to the country, also operated adversely against the community. But the most potent causes which have vitally affected the position, influence, usefulness and the beneficent activities of the community have been the increasing industrialism of the country and the rise of a class of landless demagogues who posing as disinterested champions of the tenants preach anti-landlordism out of purely selfish motives.

But the greatest shortcomings from which the members of the community suffered hitherto were the want of unity and organisation among them and the complete absence of a press and platform to voice their grievances and express their viewpoints.

But these circumstances must not blind us to those defects almost inherent in the zemindar community, which have more than anything else degraded the community in the eyes of the public. We do not deny the fact that there are instances, by no means rare, of mismanagement of zemindaries by unworthy, nay morally corrupt scions of ancient zemindar families which have brought discredit upon the entire community. Nor do we seriously challenge the view commonly held that the treatment of the subjects by the zemindars has more often been marked by neglect, extortion and oppression, than by consideration and sympathy.

Fortunately enough the cumulative effect of all these causes have not been able to throw the community completely out of gear. For a time only the natural leaders of the country were driven into the back ground by the extraordinary combination of circumstances which offered excellent opportunities to others to claim leadership in their place.

Yet we firmly hold that it is this class which under proper guidance and favourable circumstances are more capable of moulding the destiny of our country than any other class. But it is essential that the members of this class must begin by making a clean sweep of all abuses and corruptions of which they are guilty and which not only debased the community but prevented them from playing their due part in the making of New India.

The virtues and traditions of leadership inherent in the community have been slowly but steadily animating the community to rise from the temporary stupor and come forward to guide the country's destiny. And it is only proper that the natural leaders should become the real leaders

of India. For the future of India does not lie with the vain idealists or unpractical critics whose only claim to distinction is effervescence through the press or the platform, but with those whose intimate connection with land and its problems have endowed them with that practical experience and wisdom through which alone the destiny of India can be moulded and guided. India was, is, and must remain, for many generations to come, mainly an agricultural country and who else but the agriculturists—landlords and tenants—should have a prior say in shaping her future? If the standard of a game is to improve, improvement must be effected by the players themselves. The on-lookers and bystanders must content themselves with criticising the defects and leave the players to decide how best the improvement could be effected.

Need a community which can boast of such eminent sons of India as the Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwara Singh of Darbhanga, Maharajadhiraja Sir Bijoy Chand Mahtab of Burdwan, Nawab Bahadur Sir Mohammed Muzammilullah Khan of Bhikampore, Nawab Sir Mohammed Yusuf, Captain Nawab Sir Ahmed Said Khan of Chhattari, Raja of Tirwa, Raja of Bobbili—to mention only a few—as its leaders, have any misgivings as to their future?

Unmistakable signs of a growing realisation of the necessity of organisation and unity are visible everywhere among the zemindars. The Al-Bengal Landholders' Conferences, held under the auspices of the British Indian Association, and the proposed Agricultural Party in Bengal, the United Party of Bihar and Orissa, the National Agriculturist Party in U. P., the proposed Nationalist Agriculturists' Party, and similar organisations in Madras—are proof positive of the rapid awakening of the zemindar community to a sense of a realisation of the difficult task awaiting them.

If the zemindars of India only care to follow the salutary advice which the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga gave them in inaugurating the United Party in Behar or which the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan placed before the British Indian Association a few days ago, or which very recently was offered to them by Nawab Sir Mohammed Yusuf, Nawab Sir Ahmed Said Khan and the Raja of Tirwa, the future of the community is assured.

In the course of an address at a meeting in Cawnpore Nawab Sir Mohammed Yusuf said :

"Both landlords and tenants have reached a critical period of their existence. If they do not act in a spirit of co-operation and solidarity they are bound to go under."

In the same meeting the Raja of Tirwa outlined the aims of the Nationalist Agriculturists' Party proposed to be formed as—to win *Swaraj* by constitutional means ; to maintain peace in the country ; to maintain unity among various religious bodies ; to improve the economic condition of the country ; to reduce the burden of taxation ; to improve the sanitary condition of villages ; to recognize no caste or creed but combine for the good of the country.

In the course of an illuminating speech at Meerut the Nawab of Chhatari said :

"On the one hand we must readjust ourselves to suit the changed conditions. Old ideas must be adjusted to the new spirit of the world. Privileged classes must make reasonable sacrifices for the masses. On the other hand we must have courage to speak our mind if we find that we are not being taken forward by these new ideals. For instance, we have some of our countrymen talking of confiscation of private property and here I may tell you at once frankly that I regard this as a very dangerous movement which will lead to class warfare of the bitterest type in this country.

"I am certain, and I say this with due respect to the views of those who differ from me, that those of my countrymen and friends who disagree with us on this point have not fully grasped the situation and understood our real needs. What we in India need to-day is not the redistribution of wealth among various classes but a genuine effort on our part to increase wealth by producing more in this country. We must increase our own produce. It is work in this direction which will increase the wealth of the country and not the redistribution of what we have. And much can be achieved in this direction through co-operation, real and sincere, between the people and the Government.

"Landlords can play a useful part in the rural areas. For instance, they can supply improved seed and good manure to the tenants and consequently increase their prosperity".



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## Kumar Brindabon Chunder Law

**K**UMAR Brindabon Chunder Law belongs to that category of men who while they keep far away from public gaze nevertheless contribute by their benefactions and humanitarian activities to the immense good of the country of their birth.

Youngest son of the late Raja Kristodass Law, Kumar B. C. Law possesses in abundance that softness of heart, that kindly and sympathetic feeling for each and every noble cause and above all that supreme regard for his own faith and institutions, which have endeared him to all.

It is true, Kumar B. C. Law did not receive the so-called high education which a man of his means and position could have easily obtained. After finishing his school education he began from the tender age of twenty to qualify himself for that practical training which the administration of a vast zemindari estates always demands. He served his apprenticeship in their firm of Messrs. Prawnissen Law & Co. and subsequently joined the firm of Messrs. Kristodas Law & Co., as one of the partners and acquired considerable experience in the business line.

Kumar B. C. Law looked after the management of the joint zemindari estate in collaboration with the late Raja Reshee Case Law and Babu Chandi Churan Law. There was a perfect understanding—very rare among co-partners and the management was characterised by efficiency in every sense of the term.

After the partition of the joint family estate the entire management of the share belonging to Raja Kristodas Law devolved upon Kumar B. C. Law. During his long period of zemindari management he showed that penetrating intelligence and masterly grasp of the intricate problems involved in the administration of vast zemindari estates, which have constituted his best title to be regarded as an ideal zemindar.

Kumar B. C. Law's solicitude for his tenants has always found tangible expression in numerous beneficent acts such as founding of schools, digging of ponds and sinking of wells, constructing of hospitals, providing of free medical aid etc. within his extensive zemindaries, which he owns jointly with his brother Kumar G. C. Law, in Jessore, Harishpore, Chourashi and Deoli.

Kumar B. C. Law's public and private benefactions transcend the limits of narrow racial or communal out-look. The wide range and extent of Kumar B. C. Law's charities is an eloquent testimony to his large-heartedness, his philanthropic disposition and generosity of spirit. There

are very few institutions of public utility in Calcutta and outside which are not recipients of financial assistance from him. The amount which Kumar B. C. Law, spends annually on charities is one of which any zemindar of his position may justly be proud.

Special mention may be made of his endowment of Rs. 5000 towards the Chitta Ranjan Hospital and his contribution of Rs. 1000 to the Astanga Ayurveda Vidyalaya. Among his other charities are his annual contributions to the Refuge, the Orphanage, the Calcutta Blind School, Ramkrishna Anath Bhandar, Gouriya Math, Mental Hospital, District Charitable Association, Uddharan Dutta Thakur in Saptagram (Hooghly), Solna Seva Samity (Barisal) etc.

Kumar B. C. Law's earnestness and activities in the cause of education have found expression in a thousand and one ways. Apart from his occasional grants to educational institutions, his yearly contributions to a number of schools—the Ahiritola Banga Vidyalaya, Radharaman Vidyalaya in Burdwan, the Sukeas Street Tol,—his providing a number of indigent and poor students every year with fees and books, his recent promise of a gift of a motor bus to the Vidyasagar College women's department—are all instances of how strongly he espouses the cause of education.

But Kumar Brindabon Chunder Law's benefactions do not end here. He is an enthusiastic supporter of sports and a number of sporting institutions of the city—e. g. Kumartuly Sporting Association, City Athletic Club, Calcutta Corporation Athletic Sports, the Central Badminton Club, the Northern Friends Club—have been all receiving financial assistance from the Kumar.

He is not unmindful of the welfare of his own community. He is a member of the Subarnabanik Samaj and helps the Subarnabanik Chatra Bhandar with an annual contribution of Rs. 125.

He had one hobby in life and that was collection of postage stamps for which he was often beset with enquires from within and outside India.

The greatest personal shock which Kumar Brindabon Chunder Law received was in the untimely death of his only son, Keshab Churn Law when the boy was still in his teens. Since then Kumar Brindabon Chunder Law has been practically living a life of retirement. He spends everyday an hour or two in the company of religious books from which texts are read out to him.

Kumar Brindabon Chunder Law is unaccustomed to showing lip sympathy. If he feels for a cause he is remarkably prompt in expressing his appreciation of it and encouraging it in a way which nobleness of mind and charitableness of heart are alone capable of.

Through sheer force of character, charming manners, courteous behaviour towards all,—even to his inferiors—his high regard for the Brahmin class, and above all his piety and simple and unostentatious habits, he has built up a reputation which passage of time will not be able to dim. Born after midnight on 16 June, 1877, Kumar Brindabon Chunder Law is now in his 59th year.

## Evils of Agricultural Production

BY ECONOMICUS.

**I**T has become a common place now-a-days to ascribe the intensity as well as the prolonged continuance of the present depression more than anything else to the drying up of international trade due to rampant economic nationalism, but the emphasis, in this, has generally been laid on industrial protection. The leading economic countries are primarily industrial countries and it is no wonder they discuss only that which affects them. But it is not industrial countries alone, like England or America that are feeling the depression ; agricultural countries, like India or China, are also writhing under it. The steady shrinking of India's export markets and the gradual drying up of her export trade is proceeding with an ominous precision. India's export surplus is diminishing year by year and she is meeting the "Home charges" only by gold exports. But her gold stocks are limited and already the gold exports are showing slow but sure signs of drying up. Under these circumstances it is imperative that India's export markets should be extended. As India exports very largely food-stuffs and raw materials, her exports are always in demand ; the markets are shrinking not of their own accord but because of deliberate governmental action. It is necessary that this action should be removed and economic competition given free play. If agrarian protection is removed in the leading industrial countries, the agricultural countries will export more and prosper. This, says Sir Frederic Leith Ross in a memorandum to the Economic Committee of the League of Nations on agrarian protection in Europe in the post-war period, will increase the demand for manufactured goods in these agricultural countries and will bring prosperity to the industrial countries.

As he points out—The distress created for the efficient agricultural producers by the loss of their markets for agricultural products in the main European industrial countries ends in distress for the efficient industrial producers of Europe, owing to the loss of their markets in the agricultural countries, to the general impoverishment of the whole world.

The present world crisis is the composite result of many different causes ; but one of the measures which would indubitably promote world recovery would be the gradual relaxation of the present intensive agrarian protectionism of the industrial countries of Europe and its replacement by a system comparable with that which prevailed before the war. No time, however, must be lost ; each year that passes creates vested interests which become more and more difficult to uproot and drives more deeply into the economic structure of the world the tendencies summarised above. It is purely in the interests of all countries to promote as rapidly as possible

a more economic system of production and interchange of commodities between the industrial and agricultural countries.

Hitherto it has been the custom of all the pundits to lay the blame on the shoulders of the agricultural countries, which by their desire of industrialisation has refused to purchase the products of the industrial countries and so started the depression ; and if this depression is to lift, they must remove their heavy tariffs and lay their markets open to the competition of industrial countries. Sir Frederic Leith Ross however tries in his memorandum to give a different analysis and suggest a different remedy. In his view, it is the principal industrial countries of Europe, who in stimulating the production of agricultural commodities at artificially high prices, have refused the products of agricultural countries and thus started the depression ; the distress created thereby in the agricultural countries has led to distress in industrial countries ; and if the depression is to be lifted, the first step must be taken by the industrial countries who should put an end to agrarian protection and offer a free market to the products of the agricultural countries, before asking for them for opening up their markets to their products.

It can be said without hesitation that Sir Frederic's analysis redresses the one-sided nature of the views hitherto prevailing, and lays the blame where at least a part of it is due ; and the remedy he suggests, the removal of agrarian protection by the leading industrial countries, is more feasible and more equitable than the usual demand made to agricultural countries to remove the industrial protection they have imposed. It is rather too much for the industrial countries to ask the poorer and unorganised agricultural countries to lay their markets open to their products, while they themselves will keep their own markets guarded by high tariff walls against any intrusion of the products of the agricultural countries. It is like the American demand, that she will shut up her markets against Europe's products, but Europe will none-the-less pay back her debts, both unreasonable and unfair, and it is time enough for someone to point it out.

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# Jute Problems in Bengal

BY KUMAR BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA,  
*Paikpara, Rajbari.*

## PRODUCTION AND USES OF JUTE

It is mete now that the Government has declared its future policy of jute-restriction, that we should have some discussion about the problems of jute in Bengal. Jute has a special economic significance in this province. This crop is particularly suited to the soil of Bengal, which produces about nine-tenths of the world's total output.

The following is a statistics of jute produced in different countries:

	1921-25 (average)	In 1000 hectares 1932
Formosa	2.2	2.6
Br. India	970	867
Indo-China		0.5 (1931)
Japan	0.6	0.6

From the above table we find that, India practically supplies the whole demand of Jute. Again within the frontiers of India, the production of jute is confined mainly to Bengal and parts of the two adjacent provinces of Bihar and Orissa and Assam. Of these provinces, Bengal produces 86.8%, B & O. 8.07% and Assam, 5.1% of the total produce of India. Thus jute may rightly be regarded as a typical Bengal product.

In Bengal, jute is cultivated more or less in almost all the districts. But seven districts out of 24 can be properly called jute-growing districts. Mymensingh produces 24.7%, Dacca 12.4%, Rangpur 10.5%, Faridpur 10.3%, Tipperah 10.1%, Pabna 5.1%, Bogra 3.4%. Thus we find that the production of jute, though scattered all over Bengal, is not evenly distributed.

The main uses to which jute is put are the following :-

1. Hessian and Gunnies.
2. Cloth : as binding thread for carpets & rugs.
3. Jute butts for paper.
4. Cheap Up-holstery.
5. Linoleum.
6. In combination with wool for dress goods.



Kumar Bimal Chandra Sinha.

7. A long and beautiful fibre has been produced which can be spun on the worsted system and is used in Serges, Vests, Sweaters &c.
8. Canvas, Tarpulins &c.
9. As substitute for hemp.
10. Other minor uses.\*

Because of its such various uses, jute has developed into an economically important crop and has a great demand all over the world. It would not be wrong to say that no industrial country can do without a fairly large amount of jute in some form or other.

### ITS CHEQUERED HISTORY

Jute cultivation has a long and chequered history. From the Report of the Jute Committee, we find that jute was a staple crop in Bengal in ancient times. "Reports of the East India Company and by Buchanan-Hamilton written at the end of the 18th century" says the Committee, "indicate this : also (a) that the normal price of jute was about Re 1 per maund, (b) home-made jute cloth was the common wearing apparel of the people of North Bengal, (c) the purchase of home-made-jute-cloth or gunny was just then beginning to interest East India Company."

It was not until 1828, that the first "commercial consignment of raw jute reached Europe". In 1838, the Dundee Spinners began to turn out jute goods, as distinctly different from flax. At this time troubles in Crimea burst out and there was a great demand for jute. After this again the American Civil War decided once for all that hence jute was going to be the only packing medium in the world.

In 1855, the first jute-mill was established in Bengal. Soon numerous mills sprang up and began to turn out millions of jute-bales. "The value of exports of raw and manufactured jute" says the committee, "was estimated at Rs. 41 lakhs in 1850-51. But it rose to Rs. 80 crores in 1926-27." Similarly the total acreage under jute also has risen fairly. In 1893-97, it rose to 30.93 thousand acres. By 1930-31, the total acreage rose to 34.85 thousand acres, since when the acreage has been dwindling.

If along with this total acreage, we study the average price of jute, we find that demand of jute was in continual increase up to 1929. In 1900-04, the price per maund was Rs. 4-1. In 1905-09, it was Rs. 5-2. In 1910-14, it rose to Rs. 6-8. In the next quinquennium, we find the price still rising. And at last the maximum was reached in 1925-29, when the price tended to be Rs. 10-4 annas per maund.

This high price of jute tempted the peasant to cultivate as far as possible jute only. The mills also did not fail to keep pace with the increased production of jute and thus we find that the total number of bales exported, had been increasing steadily.

Of course it would be foolish to assume that the factor of supply alone governs the price at which jute sells even though jute partakes of the nature of a monopoly crop, according to common belief. Still it is remarkable that whenever there is an increase in the supply, there is a marked fall in price.

From the figures of the Jute Committee, we find that until 1926, there was no such problem of over-production. There was from time to time, over-production of course. For example, we find that in the year 1924, the old unconsumed stock was 91.11 lakhs of bales, though it did not lead to any acute problem of over-production.

This apparent anomaly has been explained in the majority Report by Dr. Sinha. He has rightly pointed out that an increase in the total amount of production does not mean necessarily over-production. Dr. Sinha further considers it quite obvious that if we take a series of years, the total quantity of jute produced during the period must adjust itself to the total quantity consumed by the mills in India and abroad. The crux of the whole matter is whether the adjustment has taken place or is taking place.

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\* S. C. Mitter—A Recovery Plan for Bengal, page 71.

at a price remunerative for the raiyat. The over-production of jute does not mean that its supply is excessive from an absolute point of view. It means that the supply is such that it cannot adjust itself to demand at a price which brings normal profit for the raiyat. Thus we may say that the chief argument underlying the thesis is that over-production in one year is inevitably followed by under-production in the next year. So if we take a series of years together we find there has been maintained a fair equilibrium between demand and supply. Therefore as upto 1929-30, the balance was kept fairly undisturbed, we may say that there has been no such over-production, as could not adjust itself properly in relation to demand.

*Jute Statistics relating to Production and Consumption in and Export from Bengal.\**

Year	Yield (in lakhs of bales).	Mill Consumption (in lakhs of Bales).	Stocks accumulated during the previous year (in lakhs of Bales).	Mills brought ex-crop (in lakhs of bales),	Export of Raw Jute (in lakhs of bales).	Total Export and Mill Consumption (in lakhs of Bales).		Harvest Price of Jute per Maund †
1922-23	63.89	46.15	41.00	29.87	29.02	75.17	Rs.	10 0
1923-24	93.87	50.04	23.50	51.16	37.71	87.75	„	9 0
1924-25	91.11	51.19	24.50	47.89	38.22	93.41	„	12 0
1925-26	93.51	53.44	17.50	53.35	35.16	88.60	„	18 13
1926-27	123.83	53.74	16.00	74.35	44.48	98.22	„	8 4
1927-28	111.50	56.33	36.00	61.64	44.86	101.19	„	8 4
1928-29	104.83	58.79	38.50	55.55	44.28	103.07	„	9 0
1929-30	109.68	62.46	38.00	59.62	44.46	106.92	„	8 0
1930-31	101.53	44.37	43.50	62.26	34.27	78.64	„	3 9
1931-32	65.57	41.50	51.50	30.04	30.53	72.03	„	4 4
1932-33	87.96	42.45	42.00	47.29	35.67	78.12	„	3 4
1933-34	79.90	43.00	46.50	.	43.00	86.00	„	3 8

But from the year 1930-31, the problem of jute has assumed a changed and more critical character. Until now no such grave importance was attached to the demand side and all attention was concentrated on the supply side only. But from this time, it was the demand side which began to affect jute seriously, in spite of its monopoly character. In bringing about this change, not only internal factors but world factors also were at work. The greatest cause of this change is perhaps the all-world trade depression, which has set in full swing by this time. "The recent fall in the prices of jute" says the minority, "is regarded by popular belief to be an effect of world-depression in general and the over-production of the commodity itself in particular. Though expressed in such general terms conveying no idea whatsoever as to the manner in which these phenomena have affected the price of jute, the popular notion is, nevertheless true. It, however, needs to be explained as to why, though the depression has been a common factor affecting prices in general, the prices of jute in particular has been much more acutely depressed than the prices of other

\* J. N. Sen's 'Economics of Jute' p. 30.

† This is Harvest-price and not Market-price.

The J. E. C. generally quotes Market-price.

agricultural staples in India,\* for it would have been more natural to expect a contrary result, having regard to the monopoly condition of jute.

The Majority report has offered an explanation and a plausible explanation too. It lays more emphasis on the demand side and says that this recent fall in price is the result (not so much of over production) of 'under-consumption' of jute during the period of depression. When the depression had set in in its full intensity, every government had to interfere with the trade and commerce of its country. As a result of this interference we find that duties are imposed on many commodities with the intention of decreasing their import and jute was the most important one of the said commodities†. Again Mr N C Chowdhury mentions 11 alternative fibres which are being used in different countries instead of jute"§. Thirdly in some countries as in America, the necessity of hessians and gunny bags for exporting corn has been practically eliminated through the invention of such machines, as 'elevators' which can dump large quantities of corn without any gunny. Thus the recent high duty imposed on jute and new inventions have combined together to diminish the extent of the jute-market in the world and thus there has been a marked under consumption which in its turn has led to this extraordinary fall of price in jute.

This diminution of jute-market has been so great that production has, as yet, failed to adjust itself naturally. We find at the present moment that no proportionate check has yet come upon production. For example we find that despite of the extremely low price of jute in the year 1931-32, (the price was Rs. 4-4) there was an increase in the total yield. Again in the next year, the total yield was less by 8 lakhs of bales no doubt, but it cannot be described as restriction strong enough to raise the price substantially. The price per maund was about Rs. 3-8, and certainly that cannot be called a fairly remunerative price.

So it is clear that in this case there has been no natural adjustment between supply and demand. 'The contention' says the Minority Report "almost invariably made by those, who deny the need for control in the case of jute, is that the adjustment sought to be effected by regulation of supply is automatically secured by natural forces. This contention appears, in our opinion, to involve a serious deductive fallacy in so far as it asserts that because over a series of years the surpluses and deficits balance one another, there is a perfect equilibrium between demand and supply, no hardship being entailed by the lack of adjustment in any particular year. The conclusion thus reached is directly contradicted by experience, which shows that whenever there is any excess of supply, the whole brunt of it, as reflected in a set back in price has to be borne by the cultivators".

Though the minority takes an extreme view and carries the contention too far, still we cannot deny the grain of truth, it contains, as far as it discusses the present problem. We have already found that the total yield is not proportionately de-

#### INDEX NUMBER -

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Year	Raw Jute	Jute Manufactures	Raw Cotton	Cotton Manufactures	Cereals,	Sugar
1914	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929	95	122	146	159	125	162
1933	41	77	80	113	66	131
1934	37	75	71	115	69	125

† In Appendix V, the Jute Committee gives a long list. Here are some instances. Ceylon -10 p.c., Gold Coast- 20 p.c., Fiji- 20 p.c., Br. Guiana- 16 p.c., Netherlands- 15 p.c., Portugal- 20 p.c. and Java 50 p.c. (from 15-6-32 to 31-12-33.)

§ (1) Malaya Blanca of Cuba, (2) Paco-paco of Brazil, (3) Multi-wall-paper bags of U.S.A., (4) Mestha Pat of India, (5) Indian hemp or Sunn hemp of Madras, (6) Russian hemp, (7) Abul fibre of China, (8) Ramie fibre of China & North Bengal, (9) Sisal hemp, (10) Flax & Sida of India & (11) Manila hemp of the Phillipine Islands

ing in spite of this fall in price and therefore we are at a point, when restriction seems to be essential.

Then to sum up—upto 1925, production was automatically adjusted in relation to demand and supply. But after the year 1926, there was a great fall in price and production could not adjust itself naturally and there has been an over-production in the proper sense of the term. The majority considers it a special case but the minority thinks it is natural. On the whole, both the reports consider that some sort of restriction is necessary. So we should now proceed to consider what type of restriction and what methods should be adopted in Bengal at the present moment.

### NECESSITY OF JUTE RESTRICTION

From the arguments referred to above, we feel that there is some necessity of jute-restriction in Bengal. As the harvest-price is getting lower, the individual cultivator is trying, by further increasing his production to recoup himself for his decreased profit per maund and so the slump is being further aggravated. Moreover, such slump would continue for ever, if no check is put upon the production of jute.

In advocating Jute-restriction, we must point out some definite principles, on which the restriction-scheme would work. For example, while we are talking about restriction, we must consider whether it will be compulsory or voluntary, whether the state should pay any compensation or not and so on. But before finally determining the lines of action, we should look into restriction-schemes of other countries, to find out the-principles, on which they are working.

First of all, our attention is riveted towards U.S.A. Here the Cotton Industry had to face the fundamental problem of production in excess of demand. The centre of gravity of the industry gradually changed westward and cotton began to be grown excessively in the rich soil of Texas and Oklahoma. Thus there slowly came the problem of over-production. The price of cotton-bales underwent a steady fall. The crisis was all the more acute because the demand for cotton is inelastic and nowhere whether in the international market or at home, new avenues for cotton-consumption could be explored. At the same time, as already pointed out, the individual farmers went on increasing their production. Thus the problem assumed a serious character, when the Government felt it necessary to take it up. It immediately felt the necessity of restriction and declared that "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to establish and maintain such balance between production and consumption of agricultural commodities and such marketing conditions therefor as will re-establish prices to farmers at a level that will give agricultural commodities a purchasing power with respect to articles that farmers buy equivalent to the purchasing power of agricultural commodities in the base period . and it decided that 15 cent price would be fairly remunerative for the agriculturist.

The method adopted by the Secretary of Agriculture for accomplishing this aim was to restrict the acreage under Cotton. In the first year 1932-33, it was too late to prevent cotton being planted. Steps were therefore taken to plough in a quarter of acreage and to compensate those who came into the scheme, which was voluntary. These payments were :-

(a) Compensation of \$ 6 to \$ 12, per acre for the land retired from cotton, the exact amount depending on the average yield for the last 5 years, together with

(b) an option to buy at 6 cents a lb, as many bales of government owned cotton as the acreage retired would ordinarily yield. Payments were also made in cash only without any option and in such cases the scale ran from \$ 7 to \$ 20 per acre.

The expense was to be met by the new 'processing tax' of 4.2 cents per lb on all cotton going into domestic manufacture, estimated to yield \$ 125 millions. Cash compensation was reckoned to cost 105 millions and option payments 20 millions.

Of course the plan did not succeed at once, owing to a bumper year and lack of interest of many farmers in the 1st. year. But soon the plan succeeded and by restriction it has been able to raise the price of cotton from 6 cents in '32 to 12 cents today and has also been able to maintain it at that level. The government's objective is to restrict the crop to 25 millions acres and thus raise the price to 15 cents.

Thus, we find that though the scheme is voluntary, still as there is a substantial payment for restricting one's area, the plan has met with considerable success.

If we next turn towards Russia, the country of planned economy, we find that the restriction is not placed on a voluntary basis. In Russia "there is no automatic adjustment of wages" remarks Dr. Dalton "nor of prices according to the pressure of 'supply and demand' for wages, prices and supplies of particular goods are subject to planning." Thus by compulsory restriction, wherever it is necessary, the fear of over-production has been altogether eliminated.

Again if we turn towards the Rubber-restriction in Malay & the Netherland East Indies, we would find another type of restriction in force. After the rubber boom in 1910, when the price touched 12s. 9d. and averaged 8s. 9d. for the whole of 1910, capital was poured into the plantation-industry and supply of rubber was in great excess over demand. After several abortive schemes, Lord Stevenson's proposal was given effect to in November 1922. The plan was for a restriction of exports by the imposition of a graduated scale of export duties rising to prohibitive rates if exports exceeded the amount fixed under the scheme and varying with the percentage of standard production to be assessed annually for each estate by the committee in the East. Here, unlike America and Russia, the restriction is upon export and not upon production itself. For this reason, this plan, though successful for a short period has ultimately failed.

Thus we find that there are three types of restriction. Firstly restriction upon a voluntary basis providing for compensation for restriction ; secondly compulsory restriction as in Russia, and thirdly a restriction of export. Judging from the results, the first two seems to be greatly successful and the third one more or less a failure.

Now after considering the main types of restriction in different countries, we should now briefly discuss the suggestions of the Jute committee about applying the principles to Bengal and then see how far those have been actually applied and how they are working.

Most of the members signing the Majority Report of the Jute Committee find that Government intervention in commerce "in ways which are foreign to individualist or non-socialist states" has always proved very expensive and that there is no justification for such revolutionary action as compulsory regulation of jute crop by legislative action. They further believe that the raiyat is an intelligent farmer who appraises the situation to the best of his knowledge and grows the crop which on the information at his disposal, he thinks will pay him best. They therefore recommend that "better organised and more intensive propaganda should be carried out to inform cultivators as far as possible, regarding stocks of raw and manufactured jute in India and abroad, so as to assist them in deciding what area of jute is likely to secure." "The ordinary effect of low prices, assisted by propaganda to some extent" says the Majority, "has produced the desired effect of reducing stocks to the point, when a gradual rise of prices appears to be in progress." Therefore most of the members, signing the Majority Report are inclined to declare emphatically that there is no necessity of compulsory regulation, not even of voluntary regulation together with state-compensation.

Dr. Sinha seems to dissent from this view. He has pointed out that over-production of jute means that the supply is such that it cannot adjust itself to demand at a price which brings normal profit for the raiyat ; and there has been over-production in this sense. But though he admits that there is over-production, still he does not chalk out any policy independent of the Majority Report to which he is a signatory. Mr. G. S Dutt would like to lay great emphasis on propaganda and quotes the services of the Village Associations of Japan in this direction, as an example to be emulated.

But on the other hand the members signing the Minority Report strongly advocate the necessity of restriction. They appear to point out very ably the fallacy in the causal view put forward by the Majority that a fall in prices automatically restricts the crop, by presenting another psychological analysis viz., that the raiyat tries by further increasing his production, to recoup himself for their decreased profit.

They state categorically that "it has been revealed by actual experience of the trade in jute that a large over-production in any particular year has given greater effects than are commonly imagined. The depressing effect on price owing to the large surplus at one particular season is not merely coincident with that year, but is seen in the price movements of the next and subsequent years. The surplus leads to a heavy accumulation of stock, which takes several years to consume. Consequently there is a reduced demand for new crops till the accumulated surplus is wiped out. The need for adjusting supply to demand must, therefore, be considered imperative". As the means of adjusting supply to demand, the Minority omits legislative control at the initial stage and lays emphasis on organised voluntary effort. The Jute growing area is to be divided into different blocks, to each of which a specific quota is to be allotted by the Jute Committee. Dr. Naresh Sen Gupta however in his Note of Dissent repeats his original proposal of Legislative Regulation.

The Government seems to follow neither the Majority nor the Minority in toto. In their communique, issued on the 20th September, 1934, it is declared :

(1) that the scheme applies only to the crop of 1935. No opinion is expressed nor any indication given of the possibilities of regulating the crop in subsequent years.

(2) that the opinion of Majority of the J. E. C., is accepted namely that the restriction should be on a voluntary basis and that the measures adopted during the past two or three years for encouraging voluntary reduction should be improved and intensified.

(3) that the improvements which the government propose to introduce are mainly as follows :-

(a) A special officer will be appointed by the Government of Bengal with the sole charge of the control of Jute Cultivation.

(b) A percentage of reduction (we know it is 5 as. in the rupee) is to be prescribed with a view to securing a rise in the price of Jute.

(c) The additional expenditure necessitated by the scheme is about to be Rs. 50,000.

The main duty of the Special Officer would be mainly to supply all relevant information available as to prices, stocks, purchase, consumption and so on. Also he will carry on propaganda work.

After this a Special Officer under the name of the Jute Restriction Officer has been appointed and he is carrying on propaganda work by publishing leaflets and pamphlets. But if we critically examine the net result of all such propaganda, full of fervent appeal and noble idealism, we shall perhaps find that achievements do not seem to be substantial.

From figures of the current year's Jute Forecast it appears that a little less than 29 p. c. of the area seems to have been left out of cultivation. And this inspite of incessant propaganda, even intimidation, by officials and non-officials and the knowledge among the cultivators that the government was wholly behind the effort. The Government communique also acknowledges that even this restriction was largely forced upon the cultivator because of the failure of monsoon. Incidentally it may be noted that with a view to limiting the scope of speculation on the basis of the forecast, the government issued the figures in instalments area by area. The figures reveal a great disparity in the percentage of restriction in different districts. The figures of the forecast in the past have not been accurate nor have they been presented in such a manner as to make it possible to draw conclusions as to the effectiveness of propaganda in achieving restriction.\*

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\*It is estimated that on the 1st July, 90 lakh bales were in store. This year the total acreage under jute cultivation is 16 lakh 22 thousand acres (1934—22 lakhs 88 thousand acres) and the total produce is expected to be 75 lakhs of bales (1934—79.90). The outcome of this attempt at voluntary restriction is that there will be a probable limitation by 5 lakhs of bales only. This proves convincingly the ineffectiveness of voluntary restriction.

Recently consequent upon a demand by the trade for declaration of future policy the government has announced the continuance for another year of the policy of voluntary restriction. The market of course has been stimulated by it. But the problem is a part of the larger issue of not merely restricting the crop but of rationalising the structure of the cultivation of the jute and the manufacture of the jute fibres. As the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Azizul Huque observed "until there is some authority on behalf of the growers able to negotiate on equal terms with the purchasers, the inevitable result in so far as the growers are concerned, will be the same, whether the production is restricted to  $\frac{1}{2}$  or to  $\frac{1}{3}$ ." Thus restriction may be regarded as the thin-end of the wedge. Ultimately either the state or a body like the proposed Jute Committee shall have to regulate the price, or co-operative organisation shall have to take up the entire jute business,—a line of action which Dr. Sen Gupta regards as an "ideal arrangement." Without this arrangement, mere restriction is like urging a make-shift policy on the farmer which cannot produce much tangible result.

An expert, writing in 'the Economist' March 10, 1934, after an examination of the attempts at restriction in America concludes "it is notorious that a voluntary agreement among the farmers where there is no payment for compliance or penalty for breach, are practically useless." The immediate issue is when will government make up their mind regarding legislative action on restriction, the establishment of village associations, the inauguration of regulated markets, the establishment of the Jute Committee and the setting up of the machinery for research in Jute? As Khan Bahadur Azizul Huque mentions in his separate report, "Maffussil opinion is almost unanimously and emphatically in favour of restriction by legislation." Even the Majority suggests that if voluntary efforts do not succeed some form of coercion would be necessary. As three signatories to the Majority Report,—Dr. Sinha, Mr. G. S. Dutt and Khan Bahadur Arshad Ali—observe in connection with the discussion regarding the possibility of voluntary co-operative effort that "even in advanced countries, where co-operation has made considerable headway some measure of compulsion, not to speak of system of 'local option' has been found necessary." If co-operative effort, as conspicuous in the case of the Canadian Wheat-pool, require legislative backing, one fails to understand why a monopoly product should not be controlled by an expert body or the state.

The problem of Jute is one on which hinges very largely the future of Bengal. It is on the jute-export duty that the balancing of the budget of Bengal will have to depend for sometime to come; it is on the development of Jute, the improvement of the quality of the fibre, a consequent rise in price, the raising of substitute crops in lands made vacant—not merely due to restriction but even if the demand is great by more efficient and intensive production—and last but not least the greater industrial utilisation in the more important jute areas of the province that the cultivator's balancing of budget and the improvement in out-look—so much emphasised by the Agricultural Commission and the raising of the standard of comfort would depend. Nothing could be worse than refusing to take the necessary bold action in the matter. No better example of uneconomic parsimony could be furnished than by the hesitancy of the government to secure the necessary finance, if need be by raising a productive loan to tackle the problem. Bengal is waiting for that lead which will be able to restore the wealth, which is due to the people of Bengal and to the Government of Bengal, and to rescue the industry from the clutches of profiteers, middle-men and capitalists. It will be interesting, in this connection to note the following suggestions by "*Indian Finance*" :

(1) As the U. S. A, *Government* has lent money to cotton-cultivator, so also the Bengal Government should grant loans to jute-cultivators. As a result of this, the cultivators would be able to sell at a profit, at the time of high price,

(2) The Government of Bengal should declare that it would buy jute, if necessary, at a certain minimum price. If that is so, then jute will not sell at a lower rate.

(3) The Government of Bengal should declare that in the year 1936, all possible efforts would be made to restrict the area still further or in other words to enforce compulsory restriction by legislation.

# Rural Uplift

BY S. L. NARASIAH.

## THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF CATTLE

**A**GRICULTURE and cattle well-being are interdependent. The one cannot prosper without the other. If food supply is to increase, and agriculture to thrive, the improvement of cattle is to receive the attention of one and all. Agriculture is and bound to be the key industry of the country. Over 80 per cent of the people take to and live by agriculture. To the Indian farmer cattle are of inestimable value on account of the natural and efficacious manurial qualities, which their dung and urine contain. If well-utilized the bones, which are now practically useless, may be used both as manure, and for distillatory purposes. For ploughing the land, and carting the produce to the market, the bull and the buffalo are mostly in use.

Besides about one-sixth of the world's production of hides and skins comes from India. For the hide and skin industry the country has great future potentialities, but the scope and prosperity of this industry which we will study later on, lies in the number, and well-being of our cattle.

## DAIRY FARMING

Due to the part, which milk plays in Indian dietary, the milk problem has to-day assumed an all-wide importance in the land. India is the foremost country that has recognised the value of vegetarianism, and practised it to a much greater extent than any part of the globe. Even those who take flesh and fish largely use vegetarian food. Meat is sparingly used, and on festive occasions. The vegetarian and non-vegetarian classes alike use milk in some form or other, be it curds, ghee, butter or butter-milk.

Milk is the most natural and the most nourishing of foods. It is most 'Satvic' and easiest to digest. The moment the child comes into the world it craves for, and lives on milk. To the sick and the infirm it is indispensable. Even in the case of adults it is necessary if one wants to be strong and healthy. No other single article of food supplies all that the human system requires in the way and to the extent as milk does.

Lime is needed, not only for the bones, but for the nerves, the blood, the muscles and the heart. From 10 to 15 grains of lime are needed to make good the daily loss of this element through the kidneys and bowels.

When the deficiency exists because of a long-continued shortage of this element in the diet, several times the minimum essential should be added to the daily food in order to repair as quickly as possible the damage done by a deficient supply of calcium.

Milk is an excellent source of lime because each ounce contains three-quarters of a grain of it in a form easy to take. A quarter of milk will supply 24 grains of lime or more than 20 times as much as a pound of loaf of white-bread and ten times as much as a pound of beetroot tea.

But milk is liable to easy contamination due to the rapid growth of bacteria. It can be kept in healthy condition by immediate and quick cooling, and strict temperature control. Of the various methods in use for the refrigeration of liquids on the principles of alternate evaporation and condensation the latest is that of the Pulsometer Engineering Co., Ltd., of Reading (Berks) with methyl chloride, an odourless and harmless product.

Improved methods of churning, preserving and bottling of the different dairy products are to be popularised and provision made for test and certification, and easy transport facilities offered in the interests of the producer and the consumer alike.

Indian milch animals are showing signs of deterioration in quality and their number is fast declining. There is now a shortage in milk supply. Formerly a seer or two of milk could be had for the mere asking of it. Now genuine milk sells at about five annas a seer—a rate which is higher than in many towns of Europe and America—the cheapness of Indian labour notwithstanding. The usual rate in Bombay is ten annas a seer. Even then genuine milk is out of question. Polluted milk conveys disease through microbes. Poor children are to grow without any milk. They are fed on condensed milk imported from abroad with no fat in it and on rice or other decoction leading to higher infant mortality. The Child Welfare Societies and the Baby health weeks annually organized are but an empty show with little good unless the want of nourishing milk is made up.

The physical degeneracy of the present generation is not so much due to conditions climatic or otherwise as to the inadequacy of nourishing food, pure air, and good sanitation. If the Indians are to be what they were, strong of body and of mind, the quality and number of milch animals is to be improved. An English observer has finely sums up the whole thing when he says 'Look how this country has degenerated; even its cows cannot grow horns'. Where cattle are emaciated with shrivelled skins, sunken sides, and stunted horns, people cannot be strong and healthy.

### PASTURE LANDS

A certain extent of common pasture was provided in every village, and encroachment of the same was looked upon as heinous and irreligious. In most of the villages now there are no pastures worth the name. Cattle are let loose in the fields when there are no crops. The deterioration of the Indian milch animals is in part due to the want of pasture lands. With

the rise in value of commercial crops such as jute, ground-nut and cotton, lands once set apart for grazing purposes are utilized for their cultivation.

The lands leased out or encroached upon are to be recovered, and those still in existence are to be protected from sharing a similar fate. To realize the same some want to invoke the legislature, while others maintain that the state is to acquire new grazing grounds with public funds thus making the community pay for the wrong in leasing out or encroaching upon what really belongs to the public. Grazing and farming by rotation and raising fodder crops such as jowar, beli, gholu (white cholam) napier, Egyptian clover, lucerne and the like is the solution. It allows land rest to recuperate its lost fertility, and gives food to cattle and valuable animal manures to fertilise the soil. In villages adjoining mountains or forests, where there is plenty of uncultivated waste this is easy enough. But the difficulty is in those villages where the holding are pretty small, and every bit of land is under cultivation. The pressure on land being too great, would not leaving a portion for fodder entail too great a hardship on the poor cultivator? Where every inch of land is reclaimed with no facilities for cattle agricultural production in the long run, due to the deterioration of draught animals and the want of animal manure, is bound to sink lower than in villages where sufficient provision is made for them.

Common interest and prudence require that a portion of land say one-tenth or one-twentieth may be reserved in every village for grazing purposes. If the land belongs to any person, the villagers are to pay its price and get it. If anybody is in wrongful possession, an appeal in proper spirit by Humanitarian Associations or the local Zemindar or the Government may meet with selfless response. That India, the most ancient land with vast expanse of land where the cow is revered and worshipped as nowhere else in the world, should feel the want of milk, and get it imported from America or Japan is an insult and shame to each and every one of her sons and daughters if rightly understood. With a total area which comes to one-ninth of India Japan still owns pasture four times as great as we have, and sends us milk.

The want of proper and sufficient fodder is bringing a steady diminution in the number of milch animals. In some parts during bad years in summer especially the animals have to live upon mere leaves such as the mangoe, and young palmyra. It lowers the stamina and vitality and makes them more susceptible, and less able to resist disease. Fed on poor stuff the milk they yield is little and deficient in nourishing qualities. With no economic loss to any one fodders can profitably be grown on waste-lands, field and tank bunds, river sides, jungle and mountain parts.



# India's New Constitution

--A Great Experiment in Self-Government --

BY L. N. SARIN, B. A.

**W**ITH the Royal assent India's New Constitution becomes a "Fait Accompli". Its actual introduction and consequent operation remains only a question of a few months. India has now known where she stands. The indefinite uncertainties of her political future have taken a definite shape and her malicious critics in England have been defeated in their anti-Indian design. Mr. Churchill and his followers despite their vehemence, strength and eloquence have been routed and the singers of the doleful tale of the Lost Dominion have been accorded by the British Populace a well deservedly unceremonious burial. Hidebound Toryism has met a happy shipwreck upon the firm rock of British Common-Sense. Mr. Baldwin and Sir Samuel Hoare with the help of Haileyan Oracle have, in the face of heavy odds and compact opposition, accomplished a great feat of high statesmanship in giving India a broad-based and democratised Constitution the real significance of which can only be felt and appreciated when it has actually worked for some time.

## Nationalist India

To say the least the Nationalist India has not waxed eloquent at the merits of the New Constitution. Nationalist Press—if India can claim to have one—has condemned it as a selfish political device of British ingenuity and has gone so far as to call it an enormous retrograde step upon the Montague Scheme. It is correct that the New Constitution is not as full and free as we would want it to be but it is no distortion to say that the intractable complexities of the Indian situation required a "Compromise Constitution" and His Majesty's Government were faced with the most unenviable task of reconciling and finally adjusting rival interests and claims in the new constitution consistent with the principles of political progress. Facts as His Excellency Sir Harry Haig recently remarked at Rampur have not been tortured and mauled to fit in with institutions but the latter have been so trimmed as to fit in with the former. That was the guiding policy of the framers of the New Constitution as that was statesmanship of a very high order.

## Co-operation and Non-Co-operation

India is now faced with the solution of a very important question. Should she work the New Constitution or leave it severally alone? Should

the Nationalist India with the Congress as its pivot enter the New Legislatures to create political and constitutional deadlocks with a view to discrediting the New Constitution ? Or should the progressive forces of the country join hands with one another and setting aside their petty differences work the New Reforms with unquestionable earnestness ? "We cannot", very wisely said Sir T. B. Sapru, "afford to live any longer upon a mere negative Policy". Experience shows the unwisdom of a such policy, history records a very unfavourable verdict upon the barren philosophies of Non-Cooperation and obstruction.

### The Safeguards

The critics of the New Constitution condemn it mostly for its safeguards. But for them the Nationalist India would have hailed it as a great achievement of British statesmanship and rushed to work it with great avidity. It is true that the existence of too many safeguards is disgusting to the democratic instincts of a people but in formulating definite opinions about safeguards in any democratic constitution we must look beneath the surface and bring calm discretion and not vehement emotions to our task. The safeguards, said His Excellency Sir Harry Haig, are to be found in the nature of the people and in experience and conventions born of 300 years of political life. Safeguards do not indicate distrust of the Indian capacity ; they are merely an elementary precaution arising from practical knowledge of the dangers of democracy which are written only too clearly on the face of contemporary history. Those who contend that the safeguards render the New Constitution a mere sham probably picture the future Governors and the Viceroys as monsters and dreadful robut-men who will bestride the stage brow-beating Ministers, defying the Legislatures and trampling under foot the new found liberties of the Indian people or at any rate irresponsible autocrats who will hold those liberties in the hollow of their hands. Such fears as emanate from the above picture are no better than imaginary apprehensions which earlier the political India shakes off the better.

### Lord Willingdon's Advice

"I am satisfied", said Lord Willingdon, "that the constitutional scheme gives to India the opportunity to which she earnestly aspires to mould her future nearer to her heart's desire—let Indian leaders work to secure changes and improvements on points to which they attach importance. But I earnestly counsel them to take the scheme as the only path likely in any period of time that we can foresee to bring within their reach the great ideal of an all India Federation."

# A Lost Opportunity\*

BY RAO KRISHNA PAL SINGH

**I**T may surprise many readers that even a book published in May, 1935, can have some good words for the Feudal system. Nicholas Berdyæv, in his book, 'The Fate of man in the Modern World', refers to a philosopher in the following words : 'The Spanish philosopher Orlego remarks very wittily that the idea of Liberalism as freedom of personality from the power of the state or of society is rooted not at all in the French Revolution and not in the principles of democracy, *but in Feudalism*, in the mediaeval castle whose knight-proprietor defended it with the sword in hand. 'There is much truth in this', says Berdyæv, 'personality must defend itself against the absolute power of the state or of society'. In another place he says, 'We may conceive either a general aristocratisation of human society, or a general democratisation which would mean lowering the level of all human qualities.'

With regard to the present day systems which go by the name of socialism, democracy, dictatorship and the rest he has the following criticism to offer : 'Man is crushed by a vast shapeless, faceless and nameless power, *money*!'

'What has actually happened is that with the technicalisation and rationalisation of industry,' the number of labourers decreases, man power is replaced by the machine, and instead of an increase in the number of workers we have an increase in the number of all sorts of *functionaries of industrial bureaucracy*.' One short passage may also be quoted to make the meaning more explicit : 'Liberty has become the protection of the rights of a privileged minority, the defence of the capitalistic property and *the power of money*.'

## Revival of Aristocracy

All this may sound well and may confer a kind of a temporary 'superiority complex' on those who call themselves aristocrats, but is it the whole truth ? Can all the evils enumerated in the three preceding paragraphs be eradicated merely by blindly manufacturing aristocrats right and left on a basis of mass production ? If that were so, could such a useful institution have been abolished from a very large portion of the globe ? The answer is obvious, that if a revival of the aristocracy is desirable and possible it can only take place if the defects which have led to its

decay and degeneration are removed, and the entire institution renovated so that it may take a useful and agreeable form.

### Landlords must face facts

Facts must be faced and necessary steps taken without undue loss of time. After beating about the bush I must come to the point ; and it is this, that in India and particularly in the United Provinces the 'zamindars' and 'taluqdars' have to come face to face with the realities of the situation instead of living in a sort of a fool's paradise. It is no use quoting from one author or another about their great past or of the *sanads* granted to them by one lord or another. It is still worse to invoke the help of the Government at every step and in return for the help received, to say 'yes' to everything which comes from official quarters. They must stand on their own legs. The Government cannot always be pro-zamindar ; it has not always been so ; for what happened when the last remissions of rent and revenue were given ? Did anybody listen to the cries raised by the favoured order or were they all drowned in the shouts of the then mighty Congress ? Again, what happened in 1926 when the present tenancy law was before the legislature ? Did not the Government side with their outwardly sworn enemies ? What happened on the two previous occasions may be repeated and the landed magnates may find, if the exigencies of the situation demand, the British Government in India walking hand in hand with the Indian socialists behind the coffin of the Eminent Order. Therefore, if the zamindars think that they can, with the help of any Government, perpetuate the conditions which exist in the land system of these and other provinces and can go to sleep, they are grossly mistaken. No Government or political body is going to sacrifice its interests for those of another class, much less for those who are notoriously worthless and indolent. The only thing which may save them is their own statesmanship and power. And these cannot be possessed unless the fundamentals are grasped.

It would, therefore, have been in their interest if they could have bestowed some consideration—during the last session of the Legislative Council at Naini Tal—on the resolution which stood in the name of Thakur Hanuman Singh. The resolution, as it happened, could not be reached. But even if it had been reached the atmosphere prevailing in these days indicated that the proposal was bound to be opposed vehemently by a majority of the zamindars, if for no other reason than simply because of the feeling of fear inherent in the class. It would be worth while reproducing the text of the resolution here and then briefly explaining the proposals embodied in it. It is as follows :—

'This Council recommends to the Government to take early steps to revise their land revenue policy as indicated below :—

(a) the principles of exemption and graduation should be recognized and introduced ;

- (b) remissions of revenue in the province of Agra should be on the same lines as in Oudh ;
- (c) occupancy rights should be conferred on all statutory and non-occupancy tenants ;
- (d) all tenants should be allowed the right to grow and cut trees on their holdings ;
- (e) the rents of all kinds of tenancies should be brought on to a uniform level ;
- (f) specially low rates of rent should be fixed for uneconomic holdings, and
- (g) fragmentation of holdings should be prohibited by law.'

Now, if one reads through the text carefully he is sure to find that the resolution aims at benefiting the zamindars at least as much as the tenants. Paragraphs (a), (b) and (e) are clearly meant to help the 'zamindars'. The principles of exemption and graduation are recognized for income tax. Leaving aside the academic discussion whether land revenue is a tax or not, we can know by sheer use of commonsense that a small man with an income of Rs. 100 a year or less should not be deprived of any part of it, similarly a man with an annual income of between Rs. 200 and Rs. 500 should not be made to pay tax at the same rate as one who has an income of 5 lacs, simply because the former can barely procure the necessities of life for himself and his family out of the gross income, whereas the latter can indulge in luxuries even after parting with half of the income. Therefore it is unjust to have one scale of taxation for every class of 'zamindar' and if by the introduction of these principles the smaller zamindar gets some relief why should the bigger ones grudge it ? It is apparent that the tax or land revenue on the big 'zamindars', who already pay about half of their income to Government, cannot be greatly enhanced.

The second paragraph also asks for something which is in the interests of the 'zamindars' of the Agra province who will profit if the remissions of revenue in Agra are given on the same lines as in Oudh.

As regards paragraph (e) it is difficult to say what effect it will actually have, but this much is certain that if it does not result in profit there can be no loss to the 'zamindar.'

### Occupancy Rights

The provisions which seem to scare away the 'zamindars' from this resolution are probably those contained in paragraphs (c) and (d). Their fears, I admit, are not wholly unjustified so far as the financial side is concerned. But if we judge everything in terms of money then the virtue of the feudal system referred to by Mr. Nicholas Berdyæv will be entirely lost and it will be deprived of its grace and beauty. The system of land will be as inhuman and mechanical as other industrial and political systems are—perhaps worse—and certainly not worth preserving. But if it is a

humane system it must take into account the feelings of others—specially those who toil hard and pay heavily for their work. Every animal and therefore every human being is interested more deeply in the preservation and well-being of his progeny than of himself. He naturally wishes to see his children provided for, just as well, as if not better than he has been ; and, therefore, if he dies full of anxieties and cares about his children surely he does not have a peaceful end. So the giving of occupancy rights to all tenants will be a humane act and therefore strictly in accordance with the principles on which the feudal system is and should be based. Besides, the security of tenure will mean less litigation and less expenditure on management. The other matter which will not mean any loss to the zamindar but a lot of convenience to the tenants is with regard to the growing and cutting of wood. Everyone knows the trouble and loss to which the cultivator is put by having to knock about from place to place when he needs a little piece of wood for repairing his plough or for repairing the leakage in the roof of his house. He should have this right. In some villages the 'Shart Wajibularz' allows this even now, but the rule should be made universal.

The last two paragraphs deal with a problem the importance of which is recognised on all hands. By inserting the provisions in paragraph (f) the zamindars will be discouraged from letting out uneconomic patches of land to tenants who have no other holding ; and the proposal in (g), if accepted, will prevent the division of holdings into small slices which cannot be cultivated economically among the heirs of a deceased tenant. Neither of them will affect the zamindar materially and should not provoke opposition.

No one can claim that a resolution like this can cure all ills that have crept into the land system, but if it is accepted the tenants and the zamindars will be happier, and the latter will have a longer lease of life than they at present seem to possess.

One aspect still remains to be dealt with. There may be grave doubts as to how the provincial budget is going to be balanced. The reply need only be a brief one ; by retrenchment first and by the taxing of those who make much larger profits than the zamindars and have not paid nor are paying any tax. There is unlimited scope in both and there should be absolutely no difficulty in making the two ends meet provided there is a will to do it. But is it justice to crush one class in a mill and leave others to flourish ? Is it fair that those whose income depends upon the uncertain vagaries of the monsoon, frost and other natural and artificial conditions should be made to pay the highest tax, that each day should witness the expropriation and ruin of some families, that the most numerous section of the population should remain clothed in tatters and yearn for days to find a square meal or to see its children perish in cold or for want of sufficient nourishment ? What if the budgets of Governments are balanced in such conditions ? A handful of higher officials in one Government department

and commercial and industrial magnates in one mohalla of a big city in India today are better off financially than the agriculturists in the whole countryside of a district. There are villages, and a number of them in the province, where one cannot get copper worth a rupee even if he were to beg from door to door. This in itself is a sad commentary on the ability and sense of justice of those who boast of balanced budgets. And if the 'zamindars' who claim to be the natural leaders of the people quietly acquiesce in this system of exploitation then they are doomed ; they will deserve being consumed by socialists however tyrannous the latter may be.

\*Reprinted from the *Leader*, Allahabad. It is an admirable plea for acceptance of Thakur Hanuman Singh's resolution in the last Naini Tal session of the U. P. Legislative Council—*Ed.*

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## Imperialism in its naked Effrontery

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By S. CHOUDHURI.

**W**E moderners are very much proud of our own age which we characterize as one of great civilization. Modern social life, we hold, is a great improvement upon and presents a strong contrast to what prevailed in the middle ages. Modern democracy which has replaced crude and unrestrained forms of autocracies of mediaeval times is a rare gift of our times. Modern political conceptions were either unknown or were known in a very rudimentary stage. We have made great advances in various sciences and arts of which we make our boast and stigmatise the mediaeval period as one of illiteracy, ignorance and superstitions.

Individuals, parties, princes and states of mediaeval period based their right on might. In their relations, alliances and policies the states did not follow any rules or conventions but were primarily guided by selfish motives of territorial or other gains. There was no mechanism by which war could be averted. Ambition of a monarch, efficiency of his troops and a replenished treasury often constituted an almost irresistible incentive to war. The wars were conducted cruelly. There were no recognised principles or laws of war. Humane sentiments were seldom allowed to get the better either of brutal exercise of military power against opponents or of merciless use of victory.

We of the twentieth century claim to have totally discarded the theory of "might is right". Our right, we say, is always founded on justice, equality, reason and on evidence, documentary or otherwise. Modern nations have developed such a disinterested outlook that they often sacrifice their own interests for the sake of others.

Then again, the greatest achievement of modern times has been the League of Nations founded with the object of bringing about and cementing peaceful relationships among nations. The League through administration of its impartial arbitration and through enjoining upon its members the adoption of the Christian principles of justice, love, and brotherhood in their behaviour towards one another, aim at reconciling the conflicting claims of nations and averting wars..

Modern wars, we boldly assert, are mostly accidental and never pre-meditated and not at all prompted by any selfish motives. They are caused by such surprisingly sudden events as the accidental assassination of a country's prince in a foreign land, or the accidental misbehaviour

of a country's troops in suddenly seizing, without orders or authority, territories belonging to another country, or the sudden development of a desire on the part of a country to lay a railway line through the territory of another.

But the pertinent question is sometimes asked—Are all these boastings true? Are we really advanced in civilization as we claim to be? Or has not there been a definite retrogression in every respect? All that glitters is not gold. That the essential conditions of human life are not a whit better or improved than what they had been a few centuries back need not deceive the penetrating eye. Beneath the showy brilliance of the twentieth century every aspect of human life shows signs of degeneration and decline.

International congresses—and conferences—literary, scientific, religious, economic, political have not resulted in any improved fellow feelings among various nations and peoples. Differences and ill-feelings have been accentuated. Underlying the dazzling civilization of our times there has really been a definite set back in the standard and outlook of life.

To refer only to the military aspect of this setback: what is the moot cause of the trouble between Italy and Abyssinia? What is preventing peaceful settlement between the two countries? The League of Nations failed to ease the tension between the two countries. The conference at Paris between Mr. Eden, the British Representative, Mr. Laval, the French Premier and Baron Aloisi, the Italian Delegate has ended abortively and it dispersed issuing an official statement that "they could not find a basis for discussion which would bring about a solution of the conflict".

*Federated India* in its issue of 21st August last has explained the whole position in an exceedingly nice way. It says :—

The upshot of innumerable "talks, conversations and conferences" that have taken place till now is that Italy persists in its own view and is not prepared to yield and opening for a peaceful settlement. In short, it wants what it wants and is prepared to declare war for securing what it wants. It has no right to want anything in Abyssinia any more than Abyssinia has a right to want anything of Italy. But facts being what they are, the wolf must be allowed to claim something from the lamb even if it is drinking lower down the stream and is prepared to be at a still greater, safer and more respectful distance. But the Italian wolf's claim is for the Abyssinian lamb itself. If this should become indisputably clear to the League as it is to the world at large, the League and its members have only one course open to them to adopt consistently with the professions till now made by and on behalf of the League. That course is to demand that Italy should submit its claim to the arbitration of any power outside the League and which has no conceivable interest in favour of either party. Italy, Abyssinia and the League will appear as parties before the arbitrator and his decision should be binding. If Italy should reject such a reasonable proposal and depend upon its individual might, then the League will be justified in appealing to its members to issue a joint Ultimatum to Italy and employ

the united forces of the League against a recalcitrant power. The League was born to promote and ensure peace ; but it is the irony of Providence that prevails over the will of mortals in all such affairs, and the League can prevent war only by teaching that might could be overpowered by might. If Italy believes, being stronger than Abyssinia, it can violate the integrity and independence with impunity, it is the business of the Powers to teach Italy that they put together are stronger than Italy.

Can the demand put forward by Italy against Abyssinia be judged by any higher standard than by the mediæval one of "might is right" ? Is it not imperialism, pure and simple, which is threatening the peace of the world ? Our talks of fellow-feelings, world peace, naval disarmament, and the like are mere eye-wash and pale into insignificance before the imperialistic policy of the Great Powers.

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## Illiteracy and Rural Uplift

BY N. GHOSAL, B.A.

**I**T is a happy augury that a country-wide movement for rural uplift has been set on foot since the inauguration of Mahatma Gandhi's scheme of reorganisation of village industries. It is not my purpose in the present discussion to find out how far, if at all, this movement has been inspired by Mahatma's scheme. Whatever special circumstances might have influenced the decision of the Government of India, the fact remains that the latter for the first time in the history of the British rule in India provided in their annual budget of a crore of rupees for being distributed among the provincial Governments to be spent on well-thought-out schemes of village improvement. The local Governments and administrators have accordingly drawn up elaborate programmes and special officers have been appointed in all provinces to put these programmes into effect. The question of rural uplift has become the topic of the hour in official and non-official circles in the country. Rural welfare is now the burden of the speeches of high officials and Ministers. From one end to the other the country is astir with the question of rural reconstruction. But if past is a guide to the present, official and non-official India must bear in mind that no efforts in the direction of rural uplift would yield the desired result or were likely to find favour with and appreciated by the millions in the country-side so long as these millions continue in a state of abject illiteracy and ignorance.

Ignorant and illiterate people seldom understand their own interests, much less distinguish between measures for their benefit and those designed to harm them. No wonder therefore that measures of rural uplift are not evoking the much expected wide-spread interest in the country. The peasant has in some instances even put up a stubborn resistance against his benefactors to concern themselves with his psychological make-up.

If the Indian peasant behaves in this way it must be understood to be due not to any idiosyncrasy of character but to his failure to comprehend the implications of the measures.

Indians are proverbially conservative. This spirit of conservatism already deep-rooted in Indian character has received a long lease of life under British administrators. No serious attempt was made during the last two centuries to fight and remove illiteracy in India. Illiterate people all the world over are conservative—and conservative

to the core. It would be a height of folly to expect in India a departure of this fundamental fact. It is not lack of common sense but sheer conservatism—born of tradition and deepened by illiteracy,—which makes the Indian peasant resist all new ideas and innovations meant for his benefit and stick to his old practices.

It is therefore not the peasants but their trustees who neglected their education who are to blame for this indifferent, nay hostile, attitude towards measures of amelioration. The characteristic of illiterate people being always to go by immemorial customs every state in the world which aims at the progress of the people under its charge gives the first place in its programme to the removal of illiteracy. The *Leader* in its bi-weekly edition of August 25, last remarks :

When the communists came into power in Russia they found that 66 per cent. of the population was unable to read or write, for the Czarist Government had never cared to make them literate. But through the effort of the present regime the number of illiterates has now been reduced to less than ten per cent. While from 1921 to 1931, the percentage of literates in Russia has gone up by 56 per cent., in India it has gone up only by 1.3 per cent. More than 90 per cent. of the entire population of this country consists of illiterates and the percentage in the villages is much higher, as literacy is more prevalent in towns. One-third of the world's illiterates are in India. If the rate of progress in literacy continues to be what it was during the decennium before the last census, then it will require nine hundred years to make India as literate as Japan, where more than 98 per cent. of the people are able to read and write. Had the Government not opposed the late Mr Gokhale's scheme of free and compulsory primary education but sincerely carried out the intentions of the author, we would have today been very near to universal literacy. But the same policy continues even now and not much improvement may be expected so long as the power does not really pass into the hands of the people's representatives. If the authorities, genuinely wish the movement for rural advancement to succeed, they must base it on the foundation of mass education. Those who are conversant with village conditions know that the villager will not only co-operate with those who take up the work of education of his children, but will even be prepared to contribute towards the expenses of the upkeep of a school in his village. What he lacks is leadership to put forth organized effort. Wherever this is not wanting there are in existence flourishing private educational institutions in rural areas.

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## Is that So ?

Truth, it is said, is often stranger than fiction, and so it does seem to most people who have had truth revealed to them for the first time. "Is that so?"—the query rises instinctively from our lips. "Yes it is" comes the answer. We live to learn.

Take the case of a man, healthy, intelligent, and eager to learn who because of circumstances for which he is not directly responsible, has had to remain a stranger to the taste of some wholesome article of food or drink until a kind friend brings it before him. Naturally, he is a bit sceptical to start with. He would like to be convinced before he accepts his friend's tempting offer. Of course, there is a little argument, but it is all to the good because sound convictions should not be hastily formed. So the two get on to the task of thrashing out the matter in its entirety—its pros as well as cons.

The most satisfactory way of ending a discussion on something new to eat or drink is to give it a trial and judge for oneself. At least from what we know about hundreds of new Converts to tea drinking everyday in this country, this happens again and again. A cup of delicious Indian tea is offered to somebody who has probably never heard of tea ; he is not unreasonable and is open to conviction. When pressed a little he takes a sip from it. What happens ? He drinks it up and even asks for more. Whoever has seen a man leave his cup of tea undrunk even though it is his first cup ?

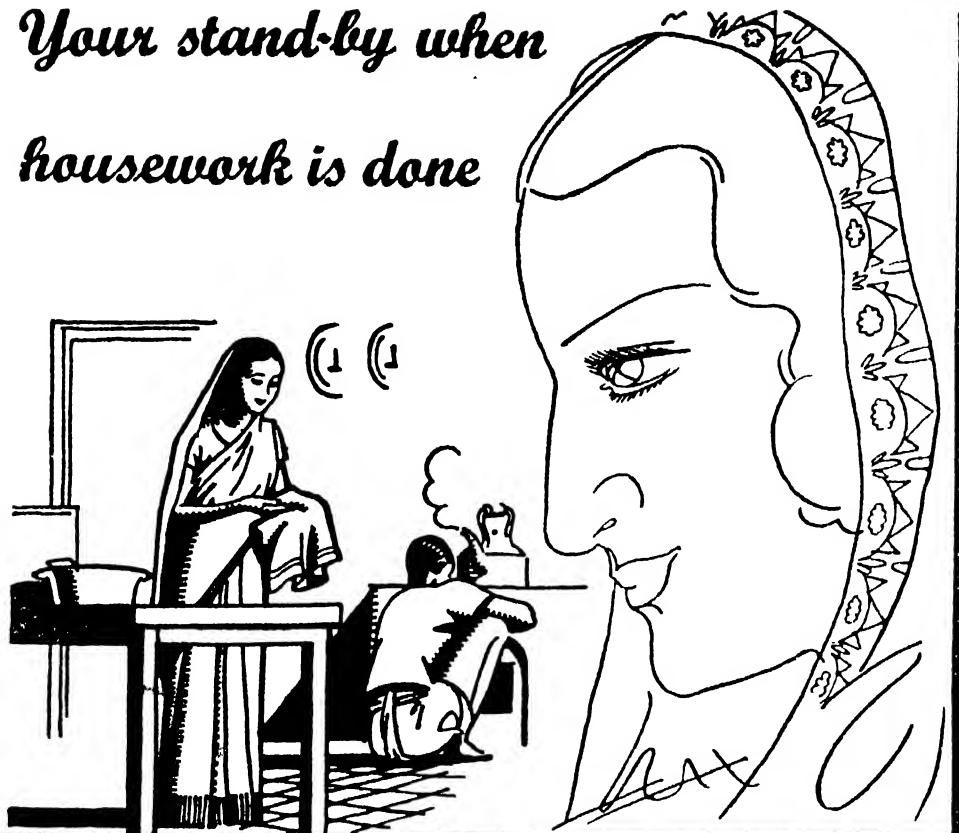
A beverage like tea cannot but be popular and especially in a country like India where people continuously crave for an invigorating drink which is both cheap and pleasant. The popularity of tea as a beverage in this country is a comparatively new phenomenon, but it is the most encouraging one that we have seen for many years.

The knowledge of what Indian tea really is and the position it occupies in the social, moral, and economic wellbeing of her people is no longer confined to the so-called intelligentsia. It has come as a revelation even to the most simple-minded peasant in the most distant village. For, he has himself found out that there is no better, purer, and cheaper drink for him. By spending one pice he can have five cups of this most excellent beverage which is in every sense his country's own product. That is how he has learnt to appreciate the value of tea in daily life.

"Is that so ?" Our emphatic answer is : "It is so."



## *Your stand-by when housework is done*

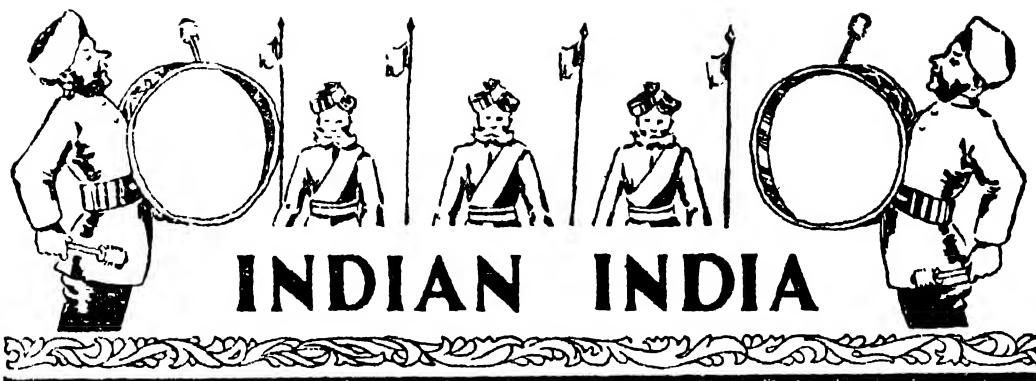


WHEN your husband has gone to work, your children are settled for the morning, and you have seen that all the domestic work is done, don't you feel a little tired sometimes? Running a house is fatiguing as all the world knows, but do you know that eleven o'clock tiredness can soon be relieved, by drinking a cup of good Indian Tea? Wise women all over the world have found this harmless, healthful beverage, the most refreshing of all drinks. It quickly takes away fatigue and brings new energy to the body and mind. Try a cup in the morning for a week and see how different you feel.

HOW TO PREPARE TEA. *Use good Indian Tea. Boil fresh water. Rinse with warm water a clean and dry earthenware tea pot. Take one teaspoonful of tea for every person and one extra for the pot. Pour boiling water on to tea leaves in the pot. Allow five minutes for infusion; then pour out into cups, adding milk and sugar.*

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The only family beverage - **INDIAN TEA**



## PRINCES AND FEDERATION

Sir Manubhai Mehta, interviewed by a press representative at Bombay on his recent return from England, said that two out of three main demands put forward by the Princes as a condition precedent to their entry into the Federation had been met by the amendments which His Majesty's Government effected in the India Bill. These two demands were both under clause 6 whose amendment would now enable the Princes to accede to the Federation of their own free will and not on account of an Act passed by Parliament and safeguarded Crown's obligations towards the States such as protection against aggression and preservation of internal peace etc. The question that still remained to be solved was the question of paramountcy but it was now a question for each State to settle with His Majesty's Government and not one requiring expression of the opinion of the Princes as a whole. Sir Manubhai thought that the way was now cleared for the Princes' Committee to advise the Princes to enter into Federation although questions such as customs duties, excise duties, and boundaries etc., remained to be solved by each state negotiating separately with the Paramount power. Unless these matters are satisfactorily defined, some States might still find it difficult to enter into the Federation.

## HYDERABAD

In view of certain criticisms appearing in the local press regarding the recent suppression of a local weekly, the *Al-Azam* edited by a muslim editor, Hyderabad Government have issued a *communiqué* which states that the newspaper in question was suppressed chiefly for certain articles of a strongly communal character and only after the service of numerous warnings which were disregarded. The policy of toleration, the *communiqué* adds, in regard to proper and legitimate criticisms of the Administration, consistently pursued by His Exalted Highness' Government cannot be extended to cover the expression of views likely in any way to injure the just susceptibilities of any section of

**His Exalted Highness' subjects and to lead to mutual bitterness, perhaps even as a consequence to breach of peace.**

\* \* \*

The Government of His Exalted Highness, the Nizam propose to issue a Loan the principal and interests of which are secured on the Revenues and Assests of His Exalted Highness' Government.

1. ISSUE PRICE—The Loan will be issued at par.

2. INTEREST—The Loan will bear interest at the rate of 3½% per annum from the 1st Azur 1345 F. Interest will be payable half-yearly on the 1st Azur and the 1st Khurdad at the Hyderabad Central Treasury or at the option of the subscriber at any District or Tahsil Treasury.

Interest from the date of application to the 30th Aban 1344 F. inclusive, will be paid at the time of the issue of the New Securities at the rate of 3½% per annum on the nominal value of the loan.

3. DATE OF RE-PAYMENT—The Government undertake to repay the loan at par on the 1st Azur 1365 F., but they reserve to themselves the right to repay the loan or any part thereof, at par, on or after the 1st Azur 1355 F. on giving three calendar montli's notice in the Jareeda.

4. SINKNIG FUND—There will be a Sinking Fund for the redemption of the loan, the annual contribution to which will be met at a figure sufficient to wholly discharge the loan on maturity.

5. FORM—The Scrip will be issued in the form of Promissory Notes transferable by endorsement or in the form of Stock, the applicants of which will be given Stock Certificates.

6. DENOMINATIONS—Applications for the loan must be for Rs. 100 or a Multiple of that sum. The Scrip will be issued in denominations of 100, 500, 1,000 5,000 and 10,000.

7. DATE OF ISSUE & CLOSING—Subscriptions will be received from the 1st Aban 1344 F. to the 30th Aban 1344 F, inclusive. His Exalted Higness' Government reserve the right to close the loan if rupees one crore are subscribed before the due date.

8. CURRENCY—Subscriptions will be received in the currency of the State, but for the convenience of the public and with a view not to affect the exchange rate between O. S. and B. G. Currency, subscriptions will also be received in B. G. Currency at the accounts rate of 100 B. G. = 116-10-8 O. S.

9. PLACE & MODE OF PAYMENT—Subscriptions to the loan will be received at the Hyderabad Central Treasury and all District and Government Tahsil Treasuries. Payment may be made in cash or by cheque on the Imperial Bank of India, the Central Bank of India, Ltd., or any other recognized Bank. Applications accompanied by subscriptions will also be received at the Hyderabad and Secunderabad Branches of the Imperial Bank of India and the Central Bank of India, Ltd.

10. APPLICATIONS—Applications forms can be obtained from the Imperial Bank of India, the Central Bank of India, Ltd., Mr. G. Raghunathmal, Banker, the Financial Secretary'a Office, the Accountant General's Office, the Central Treasury and all other Treasuries in His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Dominions.

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The Hyderabad Jubilee Committee, presided over by Maharaja Sir Kishen Peishad Bahadur, is busy planniug the celebrations on a magnificent scale thoroughout the Dominions. Opportunities, it is understood, will be given to all classes and communities to demonstrate their royalty to their ruler. Khan Bahadur Ahmad Alladin who contributed Rs. 10,000 towards the last the Royal Silver Jubilee Celebrations in Secunderabad,

has given a similar sum towards the Nizam's Silver Jubilee Fund and has suggested that an institution of public utility would be a most fitting memorial of the forthcoming event.

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That the malaria control work in the State has been attended by large measure of success is shown by the malaria report for the fasli month ending in July 6th which has been recently released for publication. For six years before the anti-malarial work was started, the average monthly attendance for malaria at the hospitals in Hyderabad city was 1,189 and now when the work has been undertaken for six years the average attendance at the same hospitals has dropped to 153. The closure of wells where malaria mosquitoes breed rapidly and the treatment of those that are left open with Paris Green and malariol form important features of anti-malarial work in the Hyderabad.

### BARODA

The Government have already decided as to the size of H. H. the Maharaja Gaekwar's Diamond Jubilee Fund and the manner of disposal of the same. It is understood that they will donate Rs. 20 lakhs towards the celebrations and another Rs. 20 lakhs will be collected from the four districts of the State, each contributing Rs. 5 lakhs. Of the total sum of Rs. 40 lakhs 15 per cent will be spent on the establishment and improvement of schools and the remainder will be utilized for village uplift work.

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A move has been set afoot to have a permanent memorial of the impending Diamond Jubilee celebrations on behalf of the muslim subjects of the State. The Working Committee of the Baroda Muslims Conference accordingly sat to consider what form the memorial should take. It is reported that they decided to set up the memorial in the form of a scheme for providing facilities and means of higher education to the youths of the Muslim Community. The meeting also decided to hold the next session of the Conference at Baroda during the Diamond Jubilee week to present His Highness the Maharaja with an address of devotion and loyalty on behalf of the Muslim Community of the State.

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With a view to encouraging fruit growing and studying marketing conditions in the State the Baroda Government have sanctioned the appointment of a horticultural expert for a period of three years.

Further measures for the promotion of fruit cultivation as contained in a recent Government order are (1) grant of cash prizes of Rs. 25, each, four in number in each district for the best results in fruit growing (2) letting of uncultivated Government lands for free-planting at concession rates for a period of ten years,—free of charge for the first five years and at half the assessment (fixed for agricultural purposes) for the remaining term, (3) supply from Government farms and royal gardens seedlings

of the best varieties of fruits suitable to local conditions at cost price and (4) arrangement to provide expert advice by Government inspectors to all cultivators of fruits.

The Government suggest that free-planting may usefully be taken up on a co-operative basis.

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The Baroda Government have appointed Mr. Allen, Director of Agriculture, U. P., who is to retire shortly from service in that province, as the Agricultural expert in Baroda for a period of three years.

\* \* \* \* \*

Reviewing the working of the various Local Boards in the State during the year 1933-34 the Government state that they note with satisfaction the interest evinced by the District Local Boards in educating the public in matters of sanitation and hygiene by undertaking such works as the holding of health exhibitions, free distribution of medicines ; promotion of physical culture by helping the different gymanastic institutions in the District etc. They, however, consider it essential that these activities should be undertaken in co-operation with departments of the State concerned to avoid duplications of effort. They also expect the Prant Panchayats to show greater interest in the affairs of the Village Boards.

The total income of all the Prant Panchayats during the year amounted Rs. 11.4 lakhs against a total expenditure of Rs. 13.85 lakhs the main item of expenditure being roads, water supply, medical help and establishment as usual. The total expenditure for construction of feeder roads was Rs. 5.92 lakhs and that for digging of wells Rs. 2.61 lakhs.

The Government helped the Boards to the extent of nearly 15 per cent of their income. The income from private grants showed an upward trend in the year, being Rs. 30,000 as against Rs. 22,400 in the previous year.

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It is understood that the Baroda Government will shortly initiate suitable statutory provisions whereby the cultivators will get the full benefit of the relief measures, without entailing any disadvantage on the decree holders during the incidence of natural calamities such as famine, frost etc.

### **mysore**

During the eighth quinquennial census of agricultural stock in the state the Mysore Government have collected a statistics, for the first time, of agricultural machineries and implements. The use of sugar-cane crushers and irrigation pumps driven by electric power is a recent development due to the Government's policy of encouraging rural electrification and supply of electric power for agricultural and industrial purposes at

cheap rates. The Government hope that there will be further development in the same direction in the coming year.

The Government have for sometime past been levying the Railway cess at the rate of 3 pies (or in some cases 6 pies) on Land Revenue in all districts other than Bangalore and Hassan. In a recent order they observe that the interest on the accumulated Railway cess fund can be utilised for road works and communications including bridges to enable the District Boards to utilize the accrued interest they contemplate to amend the existing District Board Regulation. There is no question therefore of discontinuing the levy of Railway cess as has been urged in some quarters.

Permission has been sought from the Dewan-President of the Mysore Legislative Council to introduce a non-official bill at the next session of the Council to legalise the marriage of the Hindu widows in the state on lines similar to those laid down in Act IV of 1856 in British India. It is supposed that the bill will tend to promote good morals and public welfare by recognising the offsprings of such marriages to be legitimate. The bill is a purely permissive measure ; it makes the general principles and rules of consanguinity applicable to the cases of remarriage. Where the widow to be given in marriage is a minor, the consent of her guardian is made obligatory, except where her first marriage had been consummated.

No other state is so fortunate as Mysore as regards the number of generous and public-spirited citizens who are ready to contribute munificently to the construction of work of public utility. Mr. S. Sajjan Rao, a leading yaru merchant of Bangalore has given a donation of Rs. 30,000 which has been accepted by the Government, for the construction of a block attached to the new Vanivilas Maternity Hospital, which has been recently opened by His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

The Mysore Dussara Exhibition, which is an annual event of great importance, will be held this year from the 28th of September to the 12th of October. It is a yearly stock taking of the economic resources, actual and possible, of the state and provides an opportunity to exhibitors both in the State and outside of it to bring their goods to the notice of the Mysorean public.

This year Mr. S. C. Sastry, the Deputy Director of Industries and Commerce, is the Secretary of the Exhibition Committee and according to a prospectus issued by him, applications for space in the exhibition should reach him at the Government Soap Factory, Bangalore, not later than 28th August. The different Sections in the Exhibition will be (1) Raw materials (grouped under agriculture, horticulture, live-stock, etc.), (2) Manufactures, (3) Rural industries, (4) Education, (5) Public Health and

Sanitation, (5) Fine Arts, (7) Ladies Section, and (8) History and Archæology. For the Ladies Section, artistic work by women or girls will be admitted free.

It is hoped that the pageantry side of the celebrations will be as imposing, and the crowds that will gather to witness them as numerous, as in the last and previous years.

### TRAVANCORE

In their review of the administration of Criminal Justice for 1109 Malabar Era, the Travancore Government observed that there should be a speedier administration of justice in the Lower Magistrates' Courts than it has been of late. The Government note that arrears have been increasing steadily in the last ten years. The record of the year under review tells the same tale : the stipendiary magistrates would dispose of, on the average, 403 cases against 448 in 1108 : this is the poorest record in the last seven years. The Bench Courts and the courts of the honorary magistrates showed even a worse output. In view of this state of affairs the Government have urged a closer supervision of the lower Courts by the District Magistrate. The higher courts put in more commendable work. The average duration of a sessions case fell from 29 days in 1108 to 19 days while that of a referred trial in the High Court from 161 days to 735. The number of appeals pending in the latter court at the end of the year fell from 129 to 76.

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In opening the State Rubber Factory at Trivendrum His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore proclaimed his Governments readiness to support all moves for the establishment of large scale industries. This, His Highness added, did not mean that they overlooked the claim of cottage industries which alone could ameliorate the economic plight of the vast majority. The fact that 75 per cent of the rubber cultivation in India and that under the scheme of restriction all the products could not be exported out of Travancore, His Highness said, showed that the newly established rubber factory being equipped with machinery for the manufacture of all kinds of rubber goods, would be a means for the absorption of all surplus production.

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The Agricultural Department, Travancore Government will soon initiate on intensive agricultural propaganda in limited areas by deputing its officers to work in suitable areas near their head quarters. They would organise better farming societies and try to induce farmers to adopt improvements suitable to their lands.

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The Government have accorded sanction to the opening of more trade Agencies for Travancore products in important centres in British India. Agencies it is understood will be opened at Karachi, Calcutta, Poona and Ahmedabad, and they will be placed under the supervision of the trade Agent at Bombay.

**The Government proposals for a wider franchise and a workable and satisfactory scheme of representation in the Legislature are contained in a recent press *Communiqué* which says :**

The Government cannot conceive of a Legislature in which elected seats can be parcelled out in strictly mathematical proportions among no fewer than 12 to 14 communities. It is however, their belief that by widening the franchise and delimiting the constituencies, if found necessary on further examination, all the major and minor communities in the State will have a fair chance of securing an adequate share of representation in the Legislature. Such of those backward or very small communities who fail to secure representation through general constituencies, should continue to have their interests served by the door of nomination. There are however certain well-organized, numerically strong and politically conscious communities who, by manner of distribution of their population in the State, are unable to return an adequate number of members. It is conceded on all hands that such communities are the Ezhavas, Muslims and Latin Catholics. These communities themselves entertain the apprehension that they will be unable to secure representation even with any modification that may be effected in the electoral system. This apprehension could be removed if they are assured a certain number of seats, leaving open however the question of the method and manner of securing them these seats until a further and detailed examination regarding franchise and constituencies is undertaken and completed.

After a careful consideration of the status, standing and political advancement of these three communities, the Government propose to make such arrangements in the new scheme as will enable the Ezhavas to secure eight seats by election in the Assembly and two by election or nomination in the State Council; the Muslims - three seats by election in the Assembly and one by nomination in the State Council; the Latin Catholics—three seats by election in the Assembly and one by election in the Council.

To make detailed proposals regarding the principle of franchise and delimitation of constituencies and to draw up a complete scheme in the light of the directions given above, the Government are pleased to appoint Mr. E. Subramania Aiyar, Principal of the Law College, as Commissioner for Franchise and Delimitation. He is empowered to receive memoranda from interested individuals and organizations, who may choose to place them before him. He will enter upon his duties immediately and submit his report as early as possible.

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During the Budget discussions at the joint setting of the two Houses of the Travancore Legislature, on the demand for grants for nearly Rs. 42 lakhs for expenditure on electricity and telephones in forth-coming year, Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon, Chief Electrical Engineer, stated that the needs of Travancore as regard electric supply for many years was likely to be met by the Pallivasal hydro-electric scheme, the work on which was now progressing. Rs. 35 lakhs are proposed to be spent in the coming year on this scheme. The total maximum output of power from it was likely to be about 50,000 h.p. and the capital expenditure would be about Rs. 700 per h.p., the rate being one of the lowest in India.

### COCHIN

The Budget proposals of the Cochin Government which were placed before the State Legislative Council show an estimated revenue of Rs. 98,53,900 and estimated expenditure of Rs. 97,85,100 for 1111 M. E. against

the revised estimates of Rs. 96,64,900 (revenue) and Rs. 99,65,500 (expenditure) for 110 M. E. A nominal surplus of Rs. 68,800 is thus visualised for the forthcoming year.

The Government propose to continue the remission of 12½ per cent in the Land Revenue collections even though they think that the economic depression already showing signs of lifting.

The educational expenditure the budget shows, exceeds the revised estimates of Rs. 16,87,300 by Rs. 69,200. There is a provision for about Rs. 30,000 for the maintenance of depressed class Schools.

Liberal allotments have been made for village panchayts as in the last year. A sum of Rs. 2,36,900 has been allotted for them.

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The Cochin Durbar have decided to open a Land Mortgage Bank in the State. Ra Bahadur C. Gopala Menon is busy drawing up a scheme for the proposed Land Mortgage Bank which is expected to commence work in November next. The Bank, it is understood, will have a paid up capital of a lakh of rupees divided into 10,000 shares of ten rupees each. The Government will purchase half of the total number of shares and the other half will be subscribed by the public. Debentures will be issued by the Bank bearing interest at 4 per cent and the Government will guarantee both the principle and the interest.

To enable the Bank to commence its work, however, a bill, drawn up more or less on the lines of similar enactments in British India will have to be passed at the next session of the Cochin Legislative Council.

Replying to a non-official demand for the introduction of a system of responsible Government during the last budget debate in the Legislative Council Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetti, Dewan-President said, that the administrative changes that he had so far effected could at least serve as a foundations for the superstructure of further constitutional reforms. The Advisory Committees proposed to be constituted, he said, would give their representatives the necessary experience of the inner working of the administrative machinery of Government and in due course, a class of men who were competent to take over and discharge responsibility as Ministers would be available among themselves.

### REWA

His Highness the Maharaja of Rewa has been pleased to give his assent to the Rewa State Companies Act passed by the State Council. The Act is on the lines of the British Indian enactment, and has been necessitated by the recent establishment of some big concerns in the State. It is hoped that it will give great impetus to industrial progress in the State.

Following the discovery that certain *Pawaidars* (Jagirdars) had been continuing to levy cesses inspite of his orders to abolish the same some time ago, His Highness the Maharaja has issued an order that the collection of such cesses by the Jagirdars is wholly unauthorised and any Jagirdar found collecting cesses which have been abolished or imposing new ones will be dealt with according to law.

\* \* \* \* \*

By repealing an old Durbar order which prohibited the attachment and sale of residential houses in execution of a decree and making an exception in favour of houses belonging to or occupied by agriculturists His Highness the Maharaja has brought the procedural law in his State in line with that in British India.

\* \* \* \* \*

His Highness has been pleased to grant a rebate of 10 per cent and 25 per cent respectively to those of the citizens of Rewa who have passed the vernacular final and matriculation (and higher) examinations and take to agriculture within two years of the passing of this order. A novel solution is thus being attempted of the problem of educated unemployment and its success is being watched with keen interest in Rewa and elsewhere.

### BAMRA

In succession to Mr. H. McPherson, Rai Bahadur A. K. Bose, M. B. E., has been appointed Dewan of Bamra State.

Rai Bahadur Bose recently retired after 32 years' of service, as District Officer in several districts in Bihar and Orissa.

During the Great War he helped Sir Lauric Hammond on the Provincial Recruitment Board and was responsible for raising the Chota Nagpur Labour Corps for France.

### PUDUKOTTAH

To encourage the ryots of the State to take up waste lands for cultivation the Pudukottah Durbar have notified that waste lands assigned under the ordinary darkast rules will not hereafter be subject to full assessment from the fasli in which the assignment is made. Such lands will be charged with one-third of the assessment at the Revenue Settlement rate in the first year, two-third in the second year and the full assessment in third and subsequent years. The assignee must reclaim and render fit for cultivation at least one-third of the whole extent yearly so that the whole area may be brought under plough within three years. If the assignee fails to do so, the grant will be liable to be resumed and the Tahsildar will have full discretion either to re-enter and take possession of the land from the assignee and grant it to another person or to impose full assessment on the whole of the land from the date of default.

These concessions will come into force with effect from the current fasli, and will remain in force until further orders.

### BONAI

There has been copious rainfall in July throughout Bonai writes Mr. Rajes Chandra Mukherjee, Publicity Officer of the State. The river Brahmini is in high flood. But the heavy rain has not affected the crop the country being undulating, but has only changed the course of a big stream.

Further investigations by Dr. T. Das Gupta, PH. D., D.I.E., into the mineral and clays of the State show that besides iron and manganese, various kinds of clays are found in the Koira Parganah. At Bandhal the clays appear to be locally carbonaceous. A stiff black clay has been found here which is used as a colour wash on mud walls by local inhabitants. At Mundajore yellow ochre has been found as also white clay of a pure colour and at Jaldīhi a white clay of a far better quality. At Khajurdīhi he has found a clay of a bright red colour when fresh which is not exactly an ochre.

Published accounts of Geology has not done proper justice to the enormous reserves of iron and manganese ores in the state. The iron ores of Bonai are more or less magniferous and of a high grade.

A school for teaching handicrafts, says the Publicity Officer, will shortly be opened in the State and be named the Dharanidhar Industrial School.

### KOLHAPUR

According to the Annual Administration Report of the State for the year 1933-34 its total receipts during the year were Rs. 48,23,855 and the total expenditure Rs. 45,45,278. A noteworthy feature of the administration is that the Durbar has since a considerable time past been able to produce not only balanced budgets but surpluses.

The keen interest which His Highness's Government takes in the spread of education is evidenced by their making primary education for all and Vernacular and English education for girls free throughout the State proper. During the year the number of educational institutions rose from 816 to 818 and of pupils from 47,792 to 48,994. Co-education is freely permitted in schools and colleges though there are separate institutions for boys and girls. The boarding houses attached to educational institutions are a speciality of the Educational Department in Kolhapur : they are kept for all classes and the boarders are lodged free or on small charges which are borne by the boarding houses themselves. These houses developed extra-curricular activities of the residence besides attending to their purely academic needs.

Agriculture is in a flourishing condition under the fostering care of the state. During the year energetic efforts were made to develop fruit culture. The state has provided for imparting the knowledge of scientific training in farming to the sons of landlords by instituting a two years course of instruction in the Shri Shahu Agricultural School.

Local Self Government have attained considerable development in the State. Besides municipalities there is a net work of *panchayats* in the villages and *Taluk panchayats* under the *Ilaka panchayats*. These local bodies look after public health, medical aid, sanitation, primary education temple charities, roads, wells and other works of public utility. The *panchayats* are formed on an elective basis and a great majority of them are working satisfactorily.

### BENARES

A rather belated report on the administration of the Benares State for the year 1932-33 (1340 Fash) shows that English education has been made free in the State with the result that the number of scholars in the two English High Schools in the State rose from 710 to 754 during the year. The number of pupils in all the vernacular schools also rose from 837 to 1905 although the number of such schools remained the same as in the preceding year viz. 27. The total cost on education was 65,319 as against Rs. 71,243 of the previous year.

Police administration as well as administration of justice continued to work efficiently. There was a marked decrease of serious crimes against person and property during the year.

### RAMPUR

"I am glad that His Majesty's Government, by introducing some important amendments in the Government of India Bill have removed the main objections of the Princes to their joining the Federation and the way has been cleared for a closer union between British India and Indian India, which is the greatest guarantee for the steady and ordered progress of India as a whole" observed His Highness the Nawab of Rampur in the course of his speech at the State Banquet which he gave in honour of His Excellency Sir Harry Haig, Governor of United Provinces and Lady Haig, on the occasion of their first visit to the State.

Referring to the new constitution, His Highness remarked,

"The Prolonged labours of the last five years have at last forged a constitution for India, which, if worked properly, will afford wide opportunities of development and progress to my countrymen and win for India a place in the counsels of the Empire and the comity of nations to which she is rightly entitled. Racially and culturally there is no line of demarcation between British India and the Indian States and both are partners in the same heritage. The States, while slow to adopt the new system and ideas were also loath to part with all that was precious, beautiful and picturesque in the past. The co-operation of the two parts of India in the Federal Government will ensure sound and sustained progress and eliminate the dangers of hasty and ill-conceived measures. For the States the situation is fraught with great possibilities whether for good or for evil greatly depends on how the Princes and their Governments adjust themselves to the new conditions of Life. It therefore behoves the rulers and administrators of Indian States to take stock of the position and introduce administrative reforms which while in no way adversely affecting the stability of the state would satisfy the legitimate aspirations of their people for a wider and fuller life."

**Speaking about the affairs of his own State, the Nawab Bahadur said :**

Ever since my accession, it has been my aim to give my people wider opportunities for education, and public service. Five years ago, I set up a Legislative Committee consisting of experts to draw up enactments for the State. This Committee has recently been re-modelled, and the representative element has been introduced in order to afford opportunities to my people to ventilate their views and take part in the framing of laws and regulations for their State, as well as to discuss and offer their advice on matters in which their opinion may be invited. I have every hope that this experiment will prove successful and closer association of my people with my Government will engender a spirit of greater harmony and good will between the two, and create an identity of interest and purpose.

### **INDORE**

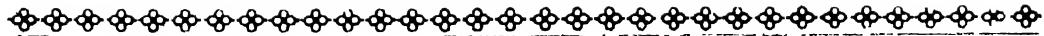
His Highness Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar has been pleased to relieve the cultivators of the state of long standing arrears of land revenue amounting to about a lakh and a half.

\* \* \* \*

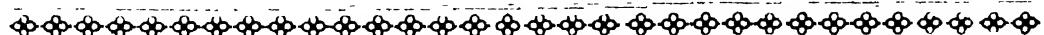
His Highness has in contemplation a scheme of reviving cottage-industries which might afford subsidiary occupation to the State-cultivators. Accordingly an enquiry has been launched into the quantity and quality of the existing agricultural, mineral and forest products in the state and their suitability to serve as raw material in the manufacture of certain articles. A stock is being taken of the existing industries in each *mahal* and of those that existed formerly together with the reasons for their decay, when all this preliminary information is collected, the Government propose to depute a special officer who will make investigations of a more specialised nature into suitable means of financing the new and existing industries, adequate supply of labour, etc. Among other things he will be required to recommend the manner in which state aid is to be given.

### **BHABNAGAR**

Thanks to the able guidance of Sir Probhashankar Pattani, the Bhavnagar Administration has been launching one scheme after another of extensive works of public utility. It has recently sanctioned a drainage scheme for Bhavnagar city which will take about four years to complete and cost about three lakhs of rupees.



## An Appeal to Bengal Zemindars



BY ATUL CHANDRA CHOUDHURI,  
Zamindar, Bhandarhati (Hooghly).

[Some ten years ago this appeal was issued in the form of a brochure by Mr. Atul Chandra Choudhuri to his brother zemindars to invite their attention to the gradual worsening of the condition of landlords and tenants and urging a due discharge of the heavy responsibilities which rest on the zemindar community towards themselves, their tenantry and the country in general. The condition today has not improved since then and the appeal has still its significance—Ed.]

### Relation between Zemindars and Tenants

The relation between a zemindar and his tenants is that of a father and son and the zemindars must always keep it before their mind in their treatment towards their subjects. The king's sins, so runs the Bengali

proverb, are the causes of drought, premature deaths and even of the destruction of his kingdom. As things stand, it appears that far from looking upon the tenants as their children the zemindars have come to regard them as nothing more than instruments to fill their coffers.



Atul Chandra Choudhuri

### Tenants' Condition

The conditions of the tenants, financial or otherwise, have reached such a stage that within the next few years their class will be extinct. The poor yield of the land, the fall in the price of agricultural products, want of marketing facilities, their helplessness before combination among purchasers who dictate prices, agricultural indebtedness—all have made the case of the tenants a hopeless one.

### Condition of Zemindars

The zemindars are no better off. The present generation of zemindars in trying to keep up to the time-honoured style and prestige of their ancestors are becoming gradually involved in debts. For though the income instead of increasing has considerably decreased due to partition of the estates owing to the increase in the number of members in each zemindar family, the expenses have gone up by leaps and bounds. The zemindars are finding it increasingly difficult to balance their budgets. No wonder, therefore, that unable to find any other means of increasing their income they have recourse to the business of enhancing the rents of their tenants. It is a method which is detrimental to their best interests. For such a

method involving both landlords and tenants in long and expensive litigation not only creates an unbridgeable gulf but causes ultimately their ruin.

### **Business**

Business offers a vast opportunity of improving one's fortunes. But our study of the history of successful businessmen reveals the fact that most of them rose in business profession by dint of hard and faithful labour. Most of them rose from humble beginnings. They started business with very small capital or with no capital and gradually and steadily they rose to topmost positions in the business world. But are the zemindars or their children fit for the business line? Do they possess the requisite qualifications for business? To succeed in business, education and honest labour are essential. Luxury is a great enemy of business. In Western countries sons of rich men do not consider it beneath their dignity to begin their lives in humble capacities or to work as paid or unpaid apprentices in factories or mills. It is a matter of sincere regret that we and our children feel it insulting to enrol ourselves as mill or factory hands or engage in any ordinary position in a business. The idea is shocking to us. But we forget that to rise in business one must work from the lowest rung of the ladder. It is due to this mistaken idea as well as want of business training that many business concerns started with huge capitals by the zemindars have been total failures.

### **Agriculture**

The decline of Indian agriculture has been brought about by a number of causes. The peasants who form the backbone of the industry of the country are so illiterate that they do not know what things are required by the country or for what products there is great demand in the country, how such things could be produced to best advantage or where or how they could be sold with greatest profits. They keep no information as to where they can purchase best seedlings and manures. They are so poor that they have to remain satisfied with the price which rich middlemen purchasers condescend to pay them for goods offered to them for sale. Want of warehouses or marketing control has led to this deplorable state of things. Foreign competition also has led to falling in the price of agricultural produce. Moreover our agriculturists are quite ignorant of crops whose cultivation will yield greater profit than of crops which they are habituated to produce.

Nor do they know where and to whom such products are to be sold. There is yet time to save the peasants if the zemindars in an organised fashion instruct their tenants in these lines. Agriculture and industry must be developed simultaneously.

### **Duties of Zemindars**

I call upon all my brother zemindars to work concertedly to save ourselves and our tenants from the impending ruin. Let us form a duly registered co-operative society for the purpose of giving all necessary

informations and advice to our tenants in the matter of selection of crops, selection of lands and the extent of area to be utilized for such crops.

This society, acting in co-operation with Government Irrigation Department can easily arrange for abundant supply of water for agricultural purposes. It can moreover arrange for the marketing and sale of the tenants' produce at the best price available. It can advance loans to tenants to free them from the grip of usurious moneylenders and can materially alter the condition of the tenants through supply of manure, best seedlings etc. at cheap cost.

Such a society will be helpful also to the zemindars. As members of the society they will participate in the profits of the society and it will give work to the sons of many zemindars, who would otherwise lead idle lives.

### Duties of Tenants

The tenants must at all times follow the paternal advice of the zemindars and act according to their instructions, in all such matters as cultivating lands for particular crops, storing their goods in the society's godown, buying seeds and manure from the society etc. Nothing but good will follow from such a line of action.

### Warning

If things are allowed to drift and no steps are taken to improve the condition of both the tenants and landlords, time will not be far distant when the tenants will cease to exist and the zemindars unable to meet their financial obligations to the Government will find their zemindaries put up to sale for default and brought under Government possession and all hopes of agricultural development will come to an end.



## Opinions which carry weight

*"The Indian Silk House has a great variety of Swadeshi Silk Saries in lovely designs and colours. . . . Reasonable prices".*

RAGINI DEVI

*"The only firm of its kind" —*  
Mr. J. M. SEN GUPTA

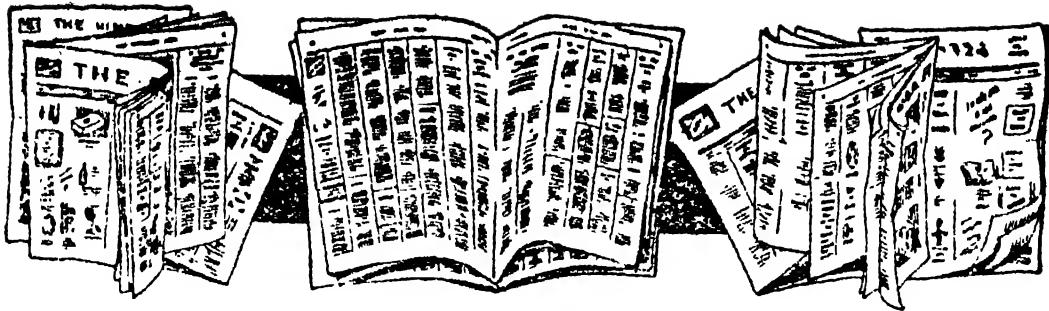
*"Their prices are fair and dealing satisfactory".*  
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## Gleanings

### A NEW STEP IN AGRICULTURE

The *Modern Review* publishes a paper under the above title which was read by Mr. K. C. Dey, M.A., (Cantab) at a recent meeting of the Mymensingh Economic Society. Mr. De suggests therein a scheme whose object is to make intensive agriculture possible in his district and province. The abnormal fall in the price of agricultural products and consequent inability of tenants to pay rents has resulted in much land being thrown back on zemindars and superior landlords to be redistributed or held in *khas* possession. This presents an opportunity for consolidation of scattered holdings which stand in the way of improved irrigational arrangements, better supervision and management, employment of experts and easy availability of financial help. He would have these lands consolidated into blocks of 25 or more acres. But how can this be done?

The Bengal Tenancy Act [ Sec. 26 D clause (e)], he says, provides for mutual transfer of holdings on payment of 5 per cent of the value of land or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the rent, whichever is higher, to the superior landlords. No right of pre-emption exists on the part of the superior landlords in respect of such transfer. But "this payment of a fee together with the short-sighted devotion to one's own blindness to one's interest and spite of other people's advantage is likely to frustrate all attempts at consolidation.

I maintain that the zemindars and the superior landlords are better placed to help the policy of consolidation. The exchange of land with them by the cultivators will be exempt from the transfer fee, moreover they can effectively exert their influence to overcome the prejudices of the cultivators with regard to such transfer and to secure compact plots for themselves as well as those who are likely to form our progressive agricultural class.

**Supposing that these plots have been secured, what is the next step ?**

If the zemindars become our pioneer in agricultural production, I presume that they will be no-where without the help and guidance of the intelligent class in the management of these new organizations as in the realization of their rents. I have said before that agriculture has not attracted the middle class, because no proper organization exists, except in the Tea industry, where the employment of their intelligence is feasible. The Gosaba scheme is not likely to appeal to their psychology. We cannot expect them to interest themselves in actual cultivation, i.e., with their own hands. They can supply the directive brain to the lower-paid supervisors of day-to-day agricultural operation. What I have in mind will be clear from the

instances of Java. Though in Java agriculture is combined with industry as in the Tea industry of the Dooars and Assam, the agricultural produce being directly used in the industry, the same sort of organization is possible even though agriculture be divorced from industry.

In Java the sugar plantations and factories are combined for two purposes :

(1) There is the "Research Station Association of the Java Sugar Industry" which looks after the agricultural and manufacturing interest of the plantations.

(2) There is "The General Syndicate of Sugar Manufacturers" which looks after their political and economic interests.

The Research Station and the General Syndicate are financed by the factories and the plantations. There is a levy of so many guilders per acreage with a maximum contribution from each plantation, so that a very large plantation has to pay a smaller amount per acreage.

We may have such a Research Station by levying a contribution from each farm. I believe that if a policy of initiating large scale farming be followed we can see our agriculture lifted from the morass into which it has fallen. It will not only lead to intensification of production as in Java, where the production in the plantation is about double that of an ordinary cultivation, but it will help to solve to a certain extent the problem of unemployment of the middle class. Moreover these farms will serve as example in the country-side to the ordinary cultivators to follow better methods of production or by co-operative effort to consolidate their holdings or to start large scale farming themselves.

I have stressed the importance of the zemindars in the initiation of a new policy in the agricultural organization because they have the necessary resources at present and the influence. Even though they may seem to have lost the influence they are now likely to take an active interest in securing sources of income other than rent if the recent trend of events are brought home to them. Already a bill has been passed imposing on them an educational cess for primary education, further legislative encroachments on their income are not only probable but sure to take place within a few years' time. For example, the Joint Parliament Committee Report states, "The White Paper proposes that the provinces should have exclusive power to impose taxes on agricultural income, which are not at present subject to income tax. We approve this proposal."

## THE CINEMA AND CULTURE

Writing under the above caption in the *Educational India* for August, Principal W. Shuttleworth M.A. says :

It is exceedingly difficult to estimate the effect of the cinema on public thought, conduct and culture. It is certainly true that many films are created to supply the demands of people of the lowest tastes. The following film paper comment speaks for itself :—

"High-spirited fooling and brisk succession of comedy situations in farcical manner, put over with zest, and directed with keen eye on proven popular ingredients, alcoholic and sexy comicalities alternating with feminine rough-house and highly charged mendacity. Experienced direction, enthusiastic portrayal, diverting minor characterisations, good recording, variable photography, safe comedy booking for the masses."

Paul Rotha (in "For Filmgoers only") writes the following :

"And in the years that have followed there has been practically no crime—moral, artistic or social—to which its exponents have not stooped in order to profit from its money-making possibilities."

Andrew Buchanan says :—

"The newsreel is definitely propaganda of the worst kind."

These comments at first tempt the educationist and moralist to despair of the cinema. But this is one side of the picture. Many excellent films of historical and nature studies have supplied entertainment and education for thousands.

At its best the film supplies the needed 'colour' for the drabness of many lives. It enables the patron to see different conditions of life, the customs and habits of other races, adventure by land, sea and sky and to enter through imagination into experiences normally outside his sphere. The film only does a great injustice if it willingly distorts accepted facts of life and aims at propaganda of the wrong sort.

Just because the cinema is commercialised supplying what its clients demand, the responsibility rests with the people, and the public and not the producers (much less the cinema proprietors) must bear the greater blame if films are unsuitable. And so, the answer to the question, "Do we get the films we deserve?" is "Yes." That we do not get the films we desire is also true.

The problem of the effect of the cinema upon young people has been the concern of many educationists in the West and is frequently commented on by magistrates in the juvenile courts. The latter are sometimes too ready to trace the inspiration of the delinquencies to the cinema. It is true that gangster films showing brutality, robbery and contempt of the law may excite the young mind in the wrong way. But probably scenes which have an immoral implication leave less impression on the youthful mind than the adult imagines. Of the films the writer saw in his young days the four which have left an indelible mark on his memory are "Les Misérables," "Quo Vadis?" "Queen Elizabeth" and "Scott's Expedition to the Antarctic". These were stories of adventure containing heroism and real romance. It seems true that, on the whole, a greater impression is made on the young mind for good rather than for evil. Nevertheless, the problem of films for young people has to be faced, and the certification of films for adults only or for all classes is not very satisfactory, and one would like to see more films made expressly for children. Adult films may be unsuitable and boring for children, but children's films are often very acceptable to adults. This means that certain cinemas must cater at times for children and the subsidising of first class children's films by the State, might be money well-spent.

The question of the prominence of sex in films is pertinent for the educationist and moralist particularly in dealing with adolescents. One must look at the subject sensibly. It is no use simply condemning this side of the film as this primary instinct is, after all, the subject of most great novels and the classics would be poor without it. The great emotional conflicts caused by sex are a justifiable theme; the condemnation is not of the subject but of its treatment. To degrade sex by dealing with it in a flippant and offensive manner is to degrade not only those who serve the dish but also those to whom it is served. It would be better if those who deal with this subject in the studio had a greater respect for it in their private lives.

## HARVESTING THE WINTER CROP IN CANADA

Mr. Cyril L. Batten writes in the *Empire Review* for July :

Many Canadian farmers are now busily harvesting their winter crop. This is the one crop of which they are reasonably sure. Frosty weather does not affect it, in fact the colder it is the heavier the yield is.

Throughout Western Canada are scores of small rivers and lakes. These freeze up during the winter, and thus provide the farmer with a bountiful crop of ice. He needs this for summer use, for then he is confronted with the problem of keeping fresh his milk, butter and meat. Many farmers assert that the ice is the only thing of any value which the winter provides them. Harvesting ice is a very interesting job. When one once learns the knack it does not take very long, handling the blocks of ice is fairly easy, although they often weigh between 200 and 300 lbs.

Farmers in Southern Manitoba usually make a "bee" and help each other. Thus, three or four neighbours decide to haul ice together, then, instead of each doing his own work, they find a spot which will provide them all with sufficient ice, and work together to finish the job in a hurry. Selecting a part of the nearest river, they know

to be fairly deep they shovel the snow, which is often two feet deep from the patch they intend to use. Once the surface is cleared, work is started by chopping a hole in the ice, in order that the ice saw may be started. The hole being cut right through, the ice saw (which is about 5 ft. long and has teeth an inch and a half in length) is started in and a long straight cut is made. The second cut runs alongside the other at a distance of about twenty inches but converges gradually on the first. It is this way the blocks will float clear when they are cut off. Were the cuts parallel, then the blocks would bind and make their removal from the water an impossibility.

When this long bar of ice is sawn out the blocks are chipped off with a heavy bar having a chisel point on one end. The bar is tapped gently across the ice in the place in which it is desired to break the block off. Once a line is made, the ice is given two or three heavy taps with the point of the bar and a block floats clear.

It is at this point that the blocks are first handled. To remove from the water, icetongs are employed. These are implements consisting of two long curved, sharply pointed limbs, hinged near the handles, so that when a block of ice is grasped by them a lift or pull on the handles firmly embeds the pointed ends into the ice and enables a man to handle an otherwise slippery article. Using these tongs one man can easily lift a 200 or 300 lb block out of the water alone.

When the weather is unsteady the ice is generally hauled away as it is cut but during frosty weather when the thermometer is down in the dumps, one may often see several dozen blocks piled up on the ice awaiting removal by their owners. When finally hauled home the ice is packed carefully in saw dust in specially dug ice-wells. These are provided with a roof to keep off sun and rain. Well-packed ice will last from Spring until freeze-up so that it is possible to enjoy icecream all the year round on a Canadian farm.

## THE INDUSTRIAL REGENERATION OF INDIA

In an article contributed to India and the World under the above title, Mr. M. S. Madhava Rau puts in a plea for a new outlook in all our industrial undertakings. He says :

The present enthusiasm in the country for the resuscitation and advancement of village industries needs to be rationally regimented if it is not to wane away after some time as unfortunately did the Swadeshi movement quarter of a century ago. The fact to be borne in mind is that mere sentiment will not last long, nor yield anything of lasting effect, unless it is wisely taken advantage of in planning and working out the details.

The exploitation of the mere patriotic feeling of the masses by dumping upon them bad or indifferent articles at a high price in the name of Swadeshi cannot persist for a long time. The feeling gets strained after a time by the heavy sacrifice and, as experience has shown, the well finished and cheaper goods from foreign countries rush into Indian markets and homes with redoubled vigour.

The lines of industrial advancement which Mr. Rau suggests is not blind imitation of Western methods but their adaptation to Indian conditions.

Japan introduced the Western methods in industrial, and now in agricultural production also, but improved upon them so much by her own efforts that the very countries of their origin have been beaten in the race. Similarly, why should not India adopt the modern industrial methods, modifying them in their application, so that the evils, both of the West and of the Far East, may be avoided? It is not the use of machinery so much that the evil lies as in the misapplication of its results through ignorance and blind imitation.

Stressing the need of a comprehensive programme he says :

The problem of India's regeneration, therefore, needs to be considered and planned in a comprehensive manner. Mahatma Gandhi has wisely included in his

programme the question of the food of the villagers and is advising the people to manufacture vitalised articles of diet to replace the devitalised ones now in general use. This itself will involve the labours of a large number of bio-chemists and doctors, to devise a dietary which while providing the maximum of nutriment will be also cheap enough for every family in the country to command. Then in providing employment to the people care will have to be taken that the conditions of work are such as will not undermine their health and morale within the course of a few years.

### **Speaking of the importance of small industries he says :**

If in India the emphasis is being laid on cottage industries it is because the bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture, producing food and raw materials. It is, therefore, foolish and futile to try to change these conditions radically even if they could be. Experience of the West is in favour of creating a healthy balance or equilibrium between agricultural and industrial production, and efforts are accordingly being made to restore it, as in Britain, where it had been disturbed, and to maintain it, as in Soviet Russia, where a new start is being made to attain self-sufficiency. This does not mean that the existing factories should be pulled down, nor the erection of new ones prohibited if they conform to rational and healthy conditions of work. Hence in India while big factories will and must come into existence from the initiative of capable industrialists, the bias of national effort on a wide scale should be towards the organisation of small industries co-related and mutually supporting one another. Small industries play an important role in the industrial economy in modern world which the educated people in our country have not yet sufficiently realised

### **PROPER USE OF THE EYES**

"The real remedy of the eye troubles from which so many people are suffering to-day is not wearing spectacles but to learn how to use the eyes properly" writes Sj. Anil Baran Roy in the pages of the *Hindusthan Review*. "The theory that errors of refraction are due to permanent defects of the lens or eye-ball leads to the use of glasses as the only means of counteracting their effects. But it has been conclusively proved by thousands of experiments made by Dr. W. H. Bates, M.D., of America that all abnormal actions of the external muscles of the eye-ball are accompanied by a strain, and that with the relief of this strain the action of the muscles becomes normal and all errors of refraction disappear."

It is a well-known fact, that though often neglected in practice, that the mind and the body require sufficient exercise as well as rest in order to function healthily. That wonderful vital organ, the heart, shows what amount of work our organs can do if exercised properly. Nature has put such rhythm into its action that in the midst of work it recoups itself by rest and can go on working indefinitely keeping the body alive. The eye is another organ which has to act almost continually --even in sleep the eye is working with the activity of the mind and imagination and Nature has provided means so that it may get sufficient rest in the midst of continuous work. It is by ignorant neglect of taking full advantage of these means that men suffer from most of their eye troubles. The first essential thing to learn about the eye is to learn the use of the eye lids. The eye gets rest whenever it is closed, and the eye lids are there to give that rest continually. The normal eye blinks or closes and opens very frequently. See how the eye lids work in a child who has not yet lost its natural impulse and acquired the vicious habit of staring. You do not see a thing better by staring, as the eye soon gets tired and the vision becomes blurred. We see things perfectly only when we blink frequently; the natural, normal blinking is so swift and gentle that the vision is not at all interrupted, but that momentary closing of the eye effectively prevents strain which is the root cause of eye troubles. In cases of imperfect sight, this natural habit is lost and must be regained by constant and deliberate practice.

Another essential thing to learn about the use of the eyes is the way of giving relaxation to them when they become tired. They should be given complete rest for some time. Closing the eye always gives rest but that rest is not complete, as some light penetrates through the closed eye lids ; so the closed eyes should be covered with the palm of one or both hands so as to cut off the light complete. Even then the eye may not get complete rest, as the eye always works with the mind and if the mind is not restful and relaxed the eye also will not be relaxed. That is why we often get up from bed in the morning with our eyes tired, if not actually aching, sometimes accompanied by headache. To give the eyes complete rest and relaxation, we have to cover the closed eyes with the palm of our hands and allow the mind to drift with pleasant thoughts and images. This is such a wonderful method of giving relaxation to the eyes that there is hardly any case of eye trouble which is not substantially relieved by it. Another effective method of relaxing the eye is swinging. Nature has provided the eye with such a delicate machinery that it can always move freely, and it is only by doing so that it can remain healthy and in good condition. The eye is strained whenever it remains stationary, and is relieved when it moves with the movement of the head and the body. The active life of the primitive man in the open air and the sun is very good for the eye as well as for general health, and is a movement in the right direction that people now are trying to counteract the evil effects of artificial living by taking as much free exercise in the open air and the sun as possible. But the usefulness of these things for the eye has not yet been fully realised and requires explanation and emphasising.

### COIMBATORE'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUGAR-CANE BREEDING

Mr. B. C. Burt C.I.E., M.B.E., B.Sc., I.A.S., Expert Adviser, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, says in a paper published in the current issue of the Mysore Economic Journal :

Coimbatore has made four most important contributions to our knowledge of sugarcane breeding. It has demonstrated the importance and successful application of a wild sugarcane, *Saccharum spontaneum*, in the breeding of hardy canes. By means of comprehensive anatomical studies it has established the importance of a suitable root system to vigorous growth of cane, has ascertained the essential differences between the "noble" tropical canes and the cane of sub-tropical India in this respect, and has applied this knowledge to cane-breeding. It has added to our knowledge of the genetics of sugarcane and of the wild saccharums. Lastly, it has successfully produced numerous inter-generic hybrids between Sorghum (the great millet, vein, *Fuar* and *Cholam*) and sugarcane. The economic value of this last discovery has yet to be evaluated, but it is a scientific achievement of great importance and its agricultural potentialities are obvious. It is hoped that a whole new series of early maturing canes will eventuate from this hybrid. These successes have only been possible because important advances in the actual technique of cane-breeding operations have also been made. The sugar-cane inflorescence is imposing, but the actual flower is small and insignificant. The earliest "crossings" had to be made under a dissecting microscope on the top of a scaffold 20 feet high. Now it is possible, as the result of numerous improvements in technique, to raise annually several hundreds of thousands of seedlings of known parentage. What cane-breeding has done for the sugar industry in India can be demonstrated by a few figures. In 1910 the best material available to a sugar factory in Northern India was a thinish cane containing when ripe about nine to nine and a half per cent. of sugar on cane, yielding only ten tons or so per acre on the average, unsuitable for intensive cultivation and only fit for crushing for about 70 days in the season. Now a group of canes is available covering the period November to April, yielding commonly 25 tons per acre and up to 35 tons with good cultivation, with a sugar content on cane of 11½ per cent. to 12 per cent. These are all hardy canes suitable for village conditions with the hard rind necessary to render them unattractive to jackals, wild pigs and other enemies and resistant to mosaic disease. When the Indian Sugar Committee reported in 1919,

good factories were getting a recovery of six and a half per cent.; now the general figure for the United Provinces and Bihar is over nine per cent., mainly due to better raw material. The average normal yield of *gur* per acre in the United Provinces in 1919-20 was 2,600 lb. per acre; in 1934-35 it was 3,900 lb. on the 1,560,000 acres planted with improved canes. Wherever Coimbatore canes are properly grown in the irrigated tracts of Northern India, a yield of 30 tons of cane, giving two and three-quarter tons of sugar per acre is now expected.

But we must retrace our steps. When the Indian Sugar Committee reported in 1919, the results of breeding work at Coimbatore were only just becoming apparent. The first important group of seedling canes to be released was a set of four, Co.205, Co.210, Co.213, and Co.214. Of these Co.213 was a main crop cane, Co.214 an early high quality cane though a lower yelder, Co.210 a late good quality cane and Co.205 was found to be amazingly hardy. These canes had been tested thoroughly at various provincial stations and at Pusa, and in 1922-23 they were brought into general cultivation largely through the efforts of the Pusa Sugar Bureau and the co-operation of the sugar factories who provided part of the funds for the multiplication of stocks for distribution and gave special facilities for milling trials. The success of this group was phenomenal, and Co.213 is now the most widely grown cane in India. Giving as a rule 11½ per cent. sugar on cane, it ripens well within the normal period for Northern India, maintains its quality well, has excellent standing power and is adaptable to a wide range of conditions. It is capable of giving yields up to 40 tons per acre with intensive cultivation, but is hardy. It has a hard rind protecting it from the ravages of jackals, wild pigs and the like and, as might be expected, the fibre content is comparatively high. The genealogy of Co.213 is of interest. One parent was the Java seedling P.O.J.213, the other the Indian cane *kansar*; P.O.J.213 in turn was a hybrid between the old "noble" cane Cheribon and the Indian *Chunee* and thus had as one distant ancestor the wild cane *Saccharum barbieri*. Co.205 was a direct cross between a cane known as "Vellai" and *Saccharum spontaneum*, and for a time seemed likely to be grown on a very large scale indeed. It was both drought-resistant and flood-resistant, and though as hardy as the most reed-like canes of Northern India, had quite a fair sucrose content and good yielding capacity. But it was hardly a good factory cane and though very tolerant of the mosaic disease, was susceptible to it. It is now rapidly being replaced by a later hybrid, Co.285, but is still of interest as demonstrating the value of the wild cane percentage, for it has been a most valuable parent for the production of later hybrids. In 1926 another cane, Co.281, which has achieved a greater reputation in Cuba than in India itself, was released — this was a hybrid between P.O.J.213 and Co.205, the latter being a cross between Ashy Mauritius and *Saccharum spontaneum*. Another seedling released in 1926-27, Co.290, was found specially valuable in Rohilkhand, being a high quality cane yielding purer juices than Co.213.

### CAMPAIGN AGAINST MALARIA

In the course of a summary of the malaria work done by the Rockefeller Foundation, the secretary, National Red Cross Societies, writes in the same journal :

Generally speaking, the drugs that are specific for malaria are expensive and are not easily administered on a large scale. Quinine is extensively used, but it has marked limitations. It is effective against symptoms and it has saved innumerable lives; but it is not a preventive of the disease. In areas where attempts have been made to control malaria by means of quinine, better food, better housing, and better hospitals, the effect on the prevalence of the disease has been practically nil. On the other hand, wherever efforts have been directed against the mosquito itself, malaria has decreased and its spread has been controlled.

Widespread attention has recently been drawn to a new remedy, *plasmochin* which was introduced in 1926. This drug possesses a valuable tendency to devitalize the malaria parasite in a certain stage of its development. Combined with quinine under the name of *chinoplasmin*, this drug has been used extensively. Unfortunately, plasmochin, even when combined with quinine, was found insufficient to prevent

the appearance of malaria parasites in the blood. It would seem, therefore, that the new drugs introduced against malaria are not wholly effective. In West Africa there is a general opinion that, in five-grain daily doses, quinine prevents serious manifestations of the disease. More than that cannot be claimed for quinine.

Some results can be obtained by killing adult mosquitoes by swatting, catching, spraying, fumigating, trapping, poisoned baits, and the encouragement of natural enemies. But not much can be expected from these methods because they require the systematic and continuous co-operation of the community, and this, except under army conditions, is rarely possible.

Other methods, which aim at preventing mosquito bites, include screening, special clothing, bed nets, chemical or mechanical repellents, removal of houses from malarial districts, provision of animal barriers and, best of all, the killing of mosquito larvae in a number of ways. One of them consists in oiling the surface water in which the mosquitoes breed. But such oiling can serve only as a temporary measure. Continued for many years it is often found to be more expensive than such permanent measures as draining and filling.

Larvae can also be killed by dusting Paris green on the water in which the larvae are found. This measure is effective even if this chemical is extensively diluted with road dust. It is not dangerous to other life, i.e., to human beings, live stock, or fish, nor has it ill effects on rice or other crops. It is also not as visible as oil and is therefore more difficult to control by inspection.

The breeding of small larvae-eating fish is a simple and effective way of controlling mosquito production. The top minnow is particularly useful for this purpose. But in few places have fish alone been able to control malaria.

The larvae of the yellow fever mosquito can be trapped, because this mosquito breeds chiefly in artificial water containers found near houses, but trapping of the larvae of the malaria mosquito would not be feasible since it breeds wherever suitable water or moisture exists.

The most radical and successful measure is the destruction of mosquito breeding places by means of drainage, clearing, cleaning, channelling, emptying, filling, flushing, and drying. Salting, or otherwise altering the composition of the water and the orderly progress of agricultural cultivation, which tends to do away with swamps and breeding areas, are also effective.

## ECONOMIC PLANNING FOR INDIA

The *Indian Journal of Economics* publishes a paper entitled as above by Mr. D. G. Karve, which was read and discussed at the last Conference of the Indian Economic Association held at Patna. Mr. Karve concludes his able dissertation with "a brief mention of what appear to be the most suitable objectives and methods of economic planning in India".

We must aim in India at a much more balanced economy than our present one. By the careful selection and assiduous development of manufacturing and commercial pursuits the needed balance must be imparted to Indian economy. We are genuinely apprehensive of the economic and political dangers of excessive or fitful protection, and for this reason as a general rule we would favour state regulation, if not actual state ownership, of protected industries. A scrupulous regard for the interests of labour and consumers, and the establishment of medium sized industries are worthy objects of concern for the economic planner in India. Indianisation of banking and insurance, the promotion of internal migrations and external colonisation, the conclusion of trade agreements with all friendly countries on purely economic grounds and on as unrestricted a basis as possible, the greater protection of tenants, particularly in the U.P. and the Rayatwari provinces, the adoption of organised poor relief and other measures based on the principle of social solidarity, the gradual introduction of collective insurance among our industrial population and the general

replacement of unregulated moneylenders by organised banking are a few of the most pressing objects of national economy which a comprehensive economic plan ought to attempt.

Agriculture is and will for all appreciable future remain the principal industry of the people of India. No more worthy object can be prescribed as the goal of Indian economic policy than the positive and all-sided improvement of Indian agriculture. Revenue, indebtedness, marketing and other pressing rural problems must be solved in a spirit of broad statesmanship instead of their being tinkered at in red-tape fashion as has been too frequently the case in the past. Above all the atmosphere in the villages, and in fact in the whole country, must be so changed as to render effective the steps at constructive reform taken by government and other organised agencies. The danger of a wise plan being founded on the rocks of indifference, and even of ignorant opposition must be avoided. This danger is very real in India, where the progressive mentality and civic sense are ill-developed even in the urban areas and among the educated classes. In its widest significance economic planning will have to be based on social and cultural progressiveness of which there are welcome signs during the last few decades, but which have not as yet gathered enough momentum to constitute a strong movement for national reformation.

Industrialisation, and generally a rational and progressive economic system, involve a more fundamental reform than merely the passing of a law or setting up of an organisation. The nation's mind and morals, its psychology and scale of values, have to be altered so as to be conducive to the attainment of the new ends. If, therefore, the nation's best minds desire to have a more industrialised and progressive economic structure they must set seriously to the task of creating the necessary mentality and urge among their countrymen. This is a less inspiring task than the more showy side of public activity, and it appears that a good deal of further work in this direction will have to be done. It is on the successful inculcation of the progressive, rational and planned mentality among individuals that the chances of success that lie before social planning depend. There are important sections in the Indian society who are political and social reactionaries. How these will range themselves under the new political constitution is as yet uncertain. India has been very fortunate in the moral and intellectual eminence of its best leaders. But unhappily their number either in politics, or in industry, has been too small to produce a lasting and widespread influence. In view of these uncertain factors, and in view of the inherent difficulties of planning in India outlined in the course of this paper high hopes about an immediate or early success of the new policy appear to be unfounded. If, however, our objectives are selected with discrimination and an honest effort is made to apply rational methods of planning through suitable agencies to promote the interests of the nation as a whole, an appreciable change for the better might be produced in a generation's period.

### TOWN WOMEN VERSUS COUNTRY WOMEN

Mrs. Freda M. Bedi, B.A. (Oxon) writes in the *Stri-Dharma*, official organ of the Women's Indian Association, as follows :

The rural woman, be she a worker in the fields, as she is in France, Germany, Italy and most of the Eastern countries, or merely the organiser of the country household, as she is in England or the New world, is much more an integral part of the family working unit than is the case in the town. Whereas in the towns, it is the exception even for the poorest working woman to share the work of her husband, the most that she does being, for instance in Western Europe, to take on part-time house cleaning or washing, which is far removed from the husband's daily labour in factory or any other of the handworker's trades, in the country the opposite is the case. Except for the commercial class, where in the poorer quarters the woman works side by side with the man, there is practically no example in the middle class families of the towns of the woman as a working unit in a busy family, which is the rule in the countryside.

One of the common sights of the European countryside—the French woman in the wheat and potato fields, the Italian woman with her brilliant kerchief tied round her

head, bobbing up and down among the maize cobs, the German woman in the Rhein valley tending the vines, and in India the peasant woman working side by side with the man of the family sowing the seed, or working alone in the cotton and tea plantations, all give evidence of the dynamic part that the woman plays. This is the main reason why the talk of women's rights and organisation passed her by. As a co-worker, she felt the discrepancy of right less, and as a hard worker from the early morning to evening time, she had neither the leisure nor the energy for activities outside the home circle.

The question of leisure time is a crucial one. Where there is no leisure, culture as we understand it cannot grow. There can be little education, except for the younger members of the family, and the lower the age they are called upon to work, the less will be the "book learning" they acquire. In the towns, the path of a communal development for women was smoothed by two factors, both conspicuously absent in the country economy--firstly, the leisure time at the disposal of the upper and lower middle class woman who spent her life in the home, and only too eagerly welcomed some respite from its monotony, and secondly, the ease of transport to women meeting within a certain radius. It is significant that the first rural women's organisations began in Canada, that part of the New World where even the country-women do not for the most part, or only under stress of harvest, work in the fields



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# **National Agriculturist Party of Oudh**

## **Its Aims and Objects.**

**By RAI BAHADUR KUNWAR MAHESHWAR DAYAL SETH,**

***Taluqdar, Kotra Estate, Honorary Secretary,  
National Agriculturist Party of Oudh.***

I shall now dwell on the aims and objects of the Party which are detailed as under :—

1. To adopt measures for the peace, prosperity and good Government of the country.
2. To oppose all subversive activities which tend to create class antagonism and cause political and social upheaval in the country.
3. To create healthy and responsible public opinion in the country and to inculcate the spirit of real service in the masses.
4. To adopt all means to promote the agricultural and economic development of the rural area.
5. To adopt means to secure unity among the various communities of India.
6. To promote the cause of Swadeshi and to assist in the development of India manufactures and industries specially cottage industries
7. To work for economy in administration and the reduction of the burden of taxation.
8. To maintain good relations between the land lords and the tenants.
9. To adopt effective measure for the relief of the agricultural indebtedness.
10. To encourage the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies and Mortgage Banks.
11. To take effective steps for regulating the currency and exchange policy in the country.

These aims and objects cover an extensive field of activity and touch National life in almost every sphere. They stand for social emancipation, economic advancement, rural uplift and political evolution. All these aspects of National progress are inter-related and inter dependent to think of one without the other is to have only a partial vision of the Nations ideal. Political advancement in the real sense of the term, carries along

with its rural, social and economic development and will be crippled if it is isolated. Similarly rural uplift is a deceptive expression, if it fails to awaken in the masses of civil sense of their rights and privileges and to assure for them a definite place in the political life of the country. Again, economic progress or social amelioration presupposes a corresponding elevation in political status, without which there can be no harmonious evolution of the country's future. Hence, all these aspects of National activities are interwoven and one cannot be separated from the other. The National Agriculturist Party of Oudh has, therefore, in the enunciation of its aims and objects has kept one thing before it i.e., an all round development of the country's dormant potentialities and resources that would ultimately lead to the goal that lies before us.

The greatest service a patriot can do, at present, to his country is to save it from the influences of subversive forces that are operating in our midst under various disguises and deceptive masks and to awaken it to an appreciation of true values of things, of significance and utility, of constitutional means and methods for the attainment of National liberty under the invincible flag that waves over regions far and wide and is an emblem of freedom and equality.

There are some who din into our ears in and out of season that "our ideal is not National and the word "Dominion Status" could be no where found in our statement of aims and objects. To such critics I repeat what I have already observed in one of my previous articles. The omission of the word "Dominion Status" need give no exultation to any body. The whole programme of constructive work points in that direction and will invariably take the people to a point from where dominion status will be in full sight and easy to grasp. If we have enunciated our aims modestly it should not be concluded that we lack the breadth of vision and outlook or the courage or determination to serve our country in a patriotic spirit or to help its evolution to its destined goal. In our love of the mother land, in our devotion to its aspirations or in our efforts to promote her interest and in our resolve to win for her an equal place of honour in the British Common Wealth we yield to none. We only differ in methods. Ours will be a constitutional move backed up by a firm resolve and aliving faith and our critics will soon discover that we have made valuable contributions to the National ideal.

With heart within and God over head we march on to our distinct goal, and the succeeding articles will dwell on the practical means and methods that we propose to adopt for the realisation of the Party's aims and objects that embody, in a nut-shell, all that the Nation at present, needs.



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1. By Bombay Mail Train	200 miles and over*	1½ single fare.
2. By Calcutta—Punjab Mail Train for servants only of 1st and 2nd class passengers.	151 miles and over	1½ single fare.
3. By other than Bombay Mail Train.		

\* In cases of through booking with the G.I.P. Railway by Bombay Mail Trains, Inter and 3rd Class tickets will be issued for distances over 100 and 150 miles respectively.

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## Activities of Zemindars' Associations

### THE HOOGHLY DISTRICT LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

On the 26th August last the president of the Hooghly District Landholders' Association presented on behalf of his Association an address of welcome to His Excellency Sir John Anderson P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., Governor of Bengal on the occasion of His Excellency's first visit to the district. The Address ran as follows :

We, the members of the Hooghly District Landholders' Association, beg to extend to Your Excellency our cordial welcome on this occasion of your first visit to our district. May we add that we are especially glad of this opportunity of expressing to you personally our appreciation of the great administrative ability and impartiality which you have displayed during the three years of your administration of this great province. Bengal will long remember with gratitude your keen solicitude for the improvement of her financial position.

It is usual, on occasions like this, for representative bodies to lay before the Head of the province their problems and their difficulties. We, therefore, crave your permission to submit to Your Excellency some of those that affect the landholding community. We earnestly hope that they will receive your sympathetic consideration.

We have noted with satisfaction that the sanctity of the "Permanent Settlement", under Regulation I of 1793, has been acknowledged in the Report of the Joint Select Committee of the British Parliament on Indian Constitutional Reform. We respectfully urge that the new constitution should embody adequate safeguards for its unimpaired continuance and preservation.

We are grateful to Your Excellency for your efforts to combat the economic depression which has been prevailing for several years. Agriculture is the main industry of Bengal, and the entire economic life of this province is bound up with it. The depression has brought out more clearly than ever the community of interests between landlords and tenants and to remove all misunderstandings and misapprehensions from the minds of the members of these two communities, the Hooghly District Landholders' Association convened at the end of last year a conference representing all shades of public opinion in the district. We are glad to mention that this endeavour on the part of our Association has brought about the desired effect. We sincerely hope that our recommendations made from time to time with a view to ameliorating agricultural conditions will be taken into account by Your Excellency's Government in the formulation of their economic policy and in implementing the same.

We thankfully acknowledge the facilities given by Your Excellency's Government regarding the payment of land revenue by Zamindars. Although such facilities, that have been granted, are, in view of the prevailing situation, inadequate, they will be rendered still more ineffectual if tenants are given the right to pay rent in long-deferred instalments, and if ever agricultural rents cease, by legislation or otherwise, to be the first charge on land.

We are thankful to Government for the concession granted to some landlords and tenants, in the payment of Survey and Settlement charges in this district.

We beg to draw Your Excellency's sympathetic attention to the great hardship felt by landlords and tenants alike in the payment of heavy Settlement costs. This is due to widespread and unprecedented economic distress and the failure of the paddy crop last year, on account of drought. In the circumstances, we pray that further concessions in the payment of recovery charges by easy instalments may be granted to all.

Your Excellency's experience and keen observation have undoubtedly convinced you, that people, especially in Bengal do not part with their land unless they are absolutely unable after strenuous efforts, to keep it. This is true alike of landlords and of tenants. But the landlords are much more helpless in this matter than the ryots. An equalisation of risks is urgently called for in a situation which may rapidly degenerate into state of chaos, involving many in ruin and Government in serious financial loss.

We have repeatedly brought to the notice of Government certain problems of irrigation within our district and suggested practicable schemes for, at least, a partial solution. In view of the present state of provincial finances, we have refrained from advocating large and expensive schemes. But some measure of relief is urgent. In a year of all-round low market prices and inadequate rainfall, we expect a great deal from Government in the relaxation of Irrigation rates and rules, with a view to making irrigation facilities available to the maximum number of people.

It is a matter of satisfaction that Your Excellency's Government, have acceded to the popular demand by initiating measures of far-reaching importance in the fields of irrigation and sanitation in this province. But it will not be out of place, perhaps, to mention here that on account of the drastic nature of the provisions of the Bengal Development Bill, it is looked upon with great apprehension by the people.

It is our sincere submission that the Bill in its present form should not have a place on the Statute Book.

To make the Bill acceptable and really beneficial to the people, the proposed innovations should be introduced only after proper and sufficient experiments have been carried out. It is our considered opinion that all the existing irrigation schemes should be excluded from the operation of this Bill. Those schemes, as at present, may well be worked under the Bengal Irrigation Act of 1876.

In conclusion, we desire to thank Your Excellency for granting us a kind and sympathetic hearing and we fervently hope and pray that steps will be taken to give us such relief as Your Excellency may deem fit and proper.

We earnestly hope and pray that Your Excellency may have a long, prosperous and happy life.

### U. P. ZEMINDARS' ASSOCIATION, MUZAFFARNAGAR

The U. P. Zemindars' Association, Muzaffarnagar, presented an address of welcome to the Hon'ble Sir Maharaj Bahadur Singh, Home Member, U. P. Government, on the 19th July last during the latter's visit to the town. The occasion was also availed of for the formal opening of the Sukhbir Singh Building, which has been recently constructed to accommodate the office of the Association, by the Hon'ble Home Member. The functions were held at the Muzaffarnagar Town Hall in the presence of a distinguished gathering composed of officials and non-officials. Mr. N. C. Mehta, I.C.S., Collector of the district, who had the kindness to attend made the opening speech. He said :

I hope I shall not be considered guilty of transgressing official proprieties if I were to venture upon a few words of welcome not only to the Hon'ble Home Member of the Government for the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, but also to a very distinguished countryman of ours and a great public servant of the Crown. It is not

my purpose to say anything about your long and varied official career, for the record of a great public servant like yourself is common knowledge. When I entered the service some twenty years ago, the reputation of Kunwar Maharaj Singh was made as one of the pioneers of the co-operative movement in these Provinces. Since then your activities have transcended the provincial limits and extended some time to the sphere of the Central Government or to the domain of the States in Rajputana. It is fortunate, however, that you have come back again to us even after having crossed the seas and spent some years in the difficult and perhaps unfortunate Continent of Africa. I had the privilege of knowing you and about you for a number of years and if I may be permitted to analyse my own mind, (and there is no reason why District Officers should not occasionally be allowed the luxuries of introspection), the most striking thing about Kunwar Sir Mabaraj Singh is a certain sense of harmony, a quality of poise and quiet dignity. This quality of balance or equipoise has gone to build up a simple and beautiful life in which the emphasis has been not on the glittering prizes of office, but on the quiet happiness and intimacy of the affectionate home. Your presence today, however, is something of a handicap to me in pushing my analysis further and declaring the results of it to the public. I must, therefore, content myself by saying how very glad we all are to welcome you to Muzaffarnagar not only as a Member of the Government, but as a great gentleman, a distinguished scion of a gifted family. As I stand welcoming you here this afternoon, another figure passes before my mind—a figure a little bent by years, dressed in spotless white, of singular charm of manners and great personal distinction. It is the figure of your late father, Raja Sir Harnam Singh. To him, perhaps whom I knew long before I had met you, must be given a great deal of credit for having sent out in the world children who have now ripened to manhood and have adorned the public services of this country, as few have done, whether as Home Member or the custodian of Indian interests overseas, whether as High Court Judge or gallant Officers in the Army. I must not forget to mention that that family also has given a leader of rare courage and devotion to the resurgent womanhood of this country. I, of course, refer to Bibi Amrut Kunwari your sister. A record of a family such as that of the late Raja Sir Harnam Singh is not one that can be easily met with anywhere, for that far-sighted aristocrat believed in a title even higher than that of mere lineage—that of public service, and that title has been vindicated by his distinguished sons and daughter. It is therefore a peculiar and personal pleasure to me in according you a very warm and affectionate welcome on behalf of the District and myself, for I feel that in honouring you we have honoured ourselves.

Capt. Nawab Mohammed Jamshed Ali Khan, M.L.C., President of the U. P. Zemindar's Association then presented the address on behalf of the Association. The address ran as follows :

We the office bearers and members of the U. P. Zemindars' Association, Muzaffarnagar are extremely glad to have this opportunity of according a hearty welcome, to you who, besides being a distinguished member of our order belongs to an illustrious family held in high esteem both by the Government and the people and known throughout the country for magnanimity and spirit of public service. The distinguished career that you have had not only as a Collector, Secretary or Commissioner in these Provinces, or as Joint Secretary in the Government of India, or as Prime Minister of a prominent Indian State but also as an Agent to the Governor-General of India in South Africa, is fresh in our minds. By the great sense of duty and high character that you have displayed in all these capacities, you have set a high standard of public service before us. We feel particular pleasure and pride in welcoming you today in still higher capacity as the Home Member of the United Provinces Government.

Our Association was founded in 1896, with a view to organise the landed aristocracy of these Provinces of which your family has been an illustrious example for many years past, because their activities were not confined only to the Province of the Punjab but extended to our Province as well. Your father, the well-known Hon'ble Raja Sir Harnam Singh Sahib, K. C. S. I., was one of the distinguished pioneers in the founding of our Association and in its running in its early days. The

name of your father has been one of the many distinguished examples of true aristocracy which has the interests not of a particular class at heart, but also of the general public. Your father did not only work for our Association but also adorned the high office of the Honorary Secretary in the British Indian Association of Oudh.

It has been the desire of the Association for a long time to have its own building for accommodating its offices and for holding its meetings. When we presented a Welcome Address to your predecessor last winter we expressed the hope that when we had the chance of welcoming the Home Member again, we would do so in our new buildings. When making that prediction we never thought that our hopes would be realised in such a short time. It would have been impossible to fulfil this desire but for the generous help of the family of late Hon'ble Rai Nihal Chand Bahadur, the founder of our Association, 'Rai Bahadur Lala Anand Swarup, Lala Janardan Swarup and Lala Hari Raj Swarup, in order to raise a suitable memorial to the late Hon'ble Lala Sukhbir Sinha, contributed about rupees eleven thousand towards the construction of this building of which you are going to perform the opening ceremony today. Nawab Sahibs of Bhikampur, Chhatari and Baghpur also helped the Association with their donations for this building. The name of Lala Sukhbir Sinha could hardly be more suitably commemorated than through this building which will serve the long felt need of the Association, which was so dear to him and which he so admirably served as Honorary Life Secretary for over 20 years. The Association is extremely grateful to the donors for their generous donation for the construction of SUKHBIR SINHA BUILDING. Our thanks are also due in great measure to Mr N. C. Mehta, our popular Collector, who took a keen interest in the completion of the building and but for whose active help and co-operation the construction would not have been so quick and beautiful. A word of thanks is due to the Municipal Board for the gift of valuable land and Rai Sahib Hari Chand for designing and supervising the buildings.

Like every other class our own also has grievances which it is not unusual on such occasion to mention. The economic depression has hit us particularly hard. The catastrophic fall in the prices of the agricultural produce has considerably effected our income. Our credit has also been shaken. Aristocratic and conservative as the Landlords are by tradition, their plight is worse as they cannot easily slide down to a new level like others who have not known the insistent demands and the traditional past. The difficult times do not seem to pass. With the advent of the new constitution and the urgent need for organising the landowners in order to take an effective part in the Government of the Province, various new demands will be made on their purse. The strength of their organisation will depend upon the funds they can collect, and the confidence they can create among their tenants.

We have our complaints about the heavy incidence of irrigation rates which are affecting the ability of the cultivator to pay his rent; about the heavy burden cast on landlords, specially the small ones, on account of the wide disparity between the remissions of rent and revenue; and about the absence of credit institutions to advance money on long term against the security of land. These questions require serious consideration on the part of the Government in order to increase the paying capacity of the cultivator and the landlord.

We now request you to perform the opening ceremony of the Sukhbir Sinha Building.

#### Replies to the above the Home Member said :

I deem it a great honour that I should be presented with an address by you on the occasion of my first visit to Muzaffarnagar. I thank you sincerely for your friendly welcome and for your kindly personal references. I received a copy of your address only after my arrival today in Muzaffarnagar, and I trust, therefore, that you will forgive me if my reply is brief.

Your Association has a venerable history, having been founded nearly forty years ago. Your appreciative remarks about my father have deeply touched me. Though he was a Punjabi by birth, he spent many years of his life in the United Provinces and assisted, as you say, in the establishment of your Association. It is natural, therefore, that I should take a keen interest in your affairs. I congratulate

you heartily on having constructed a fine and spacious building for the United Provinces Zemindars' Association. This will be a visible monument of all that you stand for, namely, the welfare of the agricultural classes. I should like in this connection to congratulate the family of the late Hon'ble Rai Nihal Chand Bahadur, whom I had the honour of knowing, Rai Bahadur Lala Anand Sarup, M.L.C., Lala Janardan Sarup, Lala Hari Raj Sarup and other gentlemen for their public spirit in coming forward with funds for the construction of these premises. I am glad to know that the building is to be called after the name of the late Hon'ble Lala Sukhbir Sinha. I had the pleasure of meeting him more than twenty-five years ago and of claiming him as a friend. It may interest you to hear that we were colleagues in the Legislative Council of the United Provinces in 1919 and 1920. His place on the reformed Council has been taken by his younger brother, Rai Bahadur Lala Anand Sarup, whom I can also claim as my colleague. It is pleasing to learn that you have received assistance from your Collector, Mr. N. C. Mehta, I.C.S. I thank him sincerely for the kind remarks that he has just made about me. He is an Officer of considerable ability and experience and is keenly interested in the welfare of your District. I also note with pleasure that the Muzaffarnagar Municipal Board granted you a site, and that Rai Sahib Hari Chand designed the building.

I sympathise with you when you tell me that Zemindars have been adversely affected by the economic depression. One can only hope that the fall in Agricultural prices is temporary and that better times will come. I would remain you, gentlemen, that whatever affects you materially affects the Government and that because of the agricultural depression our finances are not in a satisfactory condition. At the same time inspite of our difficulties, we have tried to do something for the alleviation of distress among the agricultural classes both by large reductions in revenue, amounting to one crore and twelve lakhs of rupees, and by the introduction of legislation for the relief of indebtedness, which, we trust, will be of benefit to Landholders and tenants. I need only add that Government will ever be watchful of the interests of the agricultural classes from whom we receive a considerable portion of our revenue and in whose welfare we are deeply concerned.

Your Association has an important role to play in the future. For this, however, it is necessary that all your available resources should be pooled and that you should unite in a single-minded desire to promote not only your interests but those of your tenants. In the long run the interests of all classes of agriculturists are identical. There is no particular reason for pessimism, since the resources of science are increasingly placing at the disposal of the agriculturist improved technique and a larger yield, especially in regard to staple crops of your District such as wheat and cane.

You have made a reference to the impending changes in the constitution of these Provinces. The zamindars, as the custodians of honoured traditions, will, I feel sure, continue to assist in the material and political progress of these Provinces. You have played a great part in the past. I would ask you, however, in your own interests to show even greater zeal, greater powers of organization and, if I may say so, greater co-ordination. Political parties in the modern world require organization and funds and, even more than these, it is necessary that there should be unity. For the sake of your order and its high traditions I would ask you to be united and at the same time to win the sympathy of your tenants.

The opening ceremony over, the distinguished guest and Mr. Mehta along with the rest of the party were entertained at an 'at home' by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Jagadish Prasad, Rai Bahadur Anand Swarup, M. L. C. and Lala Hari Raj Swarup.

### AGRA PROVINCE ZEMINDARS' ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Managing Committee of the Agra Province Zemindars' Association, Allahabad, was held in the Marris Hall of the Weston Mansions on August 24 last. The Hon. Nawab Sir Muhammad Yusuf,

Minister for Local Self-Government, was in the chair. Members from practically all the districts of the Agra Province were present.

At the outset a resolution of condolence moved by the Chair on the death of the following members was unanimously passed : The Raja Sahib of Bara, Allahabad ; Rai Bahadur Sahu Ram Swaroop, Pilibhit ; Rai Bahadur Sahu Jagmandar Dass, Bijnor ; and Thakur Harpartap Singh, Dhokari, Allahabad.

Thirty-two new zamindars were elected as members of the Association, from all over the province. The Minister exhorted the landholders to so organise themselves that they may be able to capture most of the seats under the New Constitution.

The following resolution regarding the allocation of seats in the provincial legislature was unanimously adopted :

"Resolved that the Agra Province Zamindars' Association, Allahabad, places on record its sense of dissatisfaction at the number of three seats proposed to be allotted to them in the reformed Provincial Assembly, as published in the memorandum for delimitation of constituencies, and regards the same as highly unjust and unfair in view of its numerical strength and the large area of 36 districts represented by this Association.

"Resolved that the claim for the allotment of four seats be pressed before the U. P. Delimitation Conference and the Delimitation Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for India."

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No matter what the season is, no matter what the hour is, no matter where we are, we seek the Great Refresher even as we seek the company of dear friends. Tea is neither rare nor expensive ; simply it is something which we cannot do without. This is the incontrovertible fact about tea.

The progress of tea, as a celebrated English writer once remarked, is like the progress of truth. Suspected at first, resisted as it clamoured for recognition, abused as its fame spread, it triumphed in the end by the slow and resistless efforts of Time and its own Virtues.

The first taste of a cup of well-made tea is something that is unforgettable. How did it happen you did not know before how good it tastes ? You ask yourself. How was it ever possible for you to remain unfamiliar with so excellent a drink ? You wonder.

We wonder, too. Tea grows upon your own soil. It is cultivated and manufactured by your own countrymen. The teas that India produces are daily drunk and admired by millions of men and women in different parts of the world. In fact, it is your gift to others.

We only want you to think of tea as a drink, pure and simple. True, it is a tonic and a pick-me-up ; but people do not generally drink it simply for that reason. They drink it because it is such a splendid refresher, because it is an ideal beverage at all seasons and hours, because it invariably puts you in a pleasanter frame of mind. A necessity of life like tea, is a pleasant necessity.



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## Matters of Moment

### THE ITALO-ABYSSINIAN DISPUTE

The Italo-Abyssinian dispute is rapidly developing from a wrangle into a war. Mussolini, it seems is bent on swallowing Abyssinia and will stop at nothing. The Tripartite talks in Paris between three great Mediterranean Powers, England, France and Italy, of which much was expected have been indefinitely postponed, to be more simple, have definitely failed. Abyssinia, realising her danger, was willing to make big concessions, consistent with her existence as an independent state. The French and the British delegates, Mr Laval and Mr. Eden were convinced that Abyssinia was prepared, and she still is, to go to the "very limit of conciliation" and if Italy frankly states her demands, they will to a great extent be met by the Emperor. He contemplates guarantees for the protection of Italian colonists in Abyssinia in addition to offering economic facilities, including rights for mining, rail and road construction and agricultural development. But Italy is determined not to state her demands, for the simple reason that they are tantamount to complete absorption and as such cannot be presented to the Emperor, and consequently the talks were indefinitely postponed, with very little prospect of ever being resumed again.

The failure of the Paris Conference was followed by an emergency meeting of the British Cabinet. Ministers returned hurriedly from their holidays, and met in London. But what transpired in the meeting is not known. The only enlightenment given was by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, and all that he said was, "we have now made up minds quietly calmly and coolly. We have a very clear mind as to what should be done" We do not at all doubt, the Cabinet's having a very clear mind as to what should be done, but it would have been infinitely better if the rest of the world also knew what Britain is going to do. Meanwhile the arms embargo is to continue and Britain in collaboration with France will explore with Italy the possibility of finding a peaceful settlement. Nothing hitherto has resulted from these efforts.

Meanwhile the whole world is awaiting with tense expectation the meeting of the League Council at Geneva on September, 4 where the world's reformed and peace-loving Powers is to decide the fate of Abyssinia, so far as the Committee of Nations is concerned. The meeting will either end the League or end the Peace. Italy has of course declared her intention of presenting her case with Council on the 4th of September, which she has not hitherto done, but from her very silence upto now, and the

blustering with which she had tried to carry out her plans as well as from the Abyssinian version of the story which has not yet been denied, it may be fairly deduced that she has no case, no right but that of might. Clearly therefore the League's decision, must, if fair, be against Italy, and if Italy flouts it, the League, if it is to remain true to its principles and to continue as a living institution, must stop Italy with force. The League must employ sanctions.

But Mussolini has declared that Italy will meet any sanctions, like the closing of the Suez canal to Italian troopships and munitions ships, with war. "If sanctions are voted against Italy at Geneva, she will immediately leave the League of Nations and whoever applied the sanctions against Italy would be met by Italy's armed hostility" declared Mussolini in an authoritative statement of his views to the special correspondent of the Daily Mail. "If the League" continued the Duce, "expanded a colonial campaign into a general European War, which will open wide the door to every unsatisfied ambition on the continents or even throughout the world, costing ten million lives, then upon the League will the guilt rest." And he concluded by saying "There is no chance of Italy changing her attitude unless Abyssinia gives in. Italy will do nothing to set Europe by the ears but the others must have the same sense of responsibility."

So if the League votes against Italy and tries to enforce its mandate, it will lead to a European, perhaps a world war. On the other hand, if the League overlooks this high-handed Italian aggression it would put an end to its career as a respectable institution. So the League is faced with a dilemma—it would either ruin itself or bring a great war.

The League, of course, for practical purposes means England and France and if sanctions are to be applied, they are to apply it. France, however, has made her attitude quite clear. She will work for peace, and will try to localise the conflict as far as possible, but will in no case go against Italy. In spite of official denials, it would not be wrong to conclude that she has given Italy complete 'carte blanche' about Abyssinia in the recent pact of Rome, and would not now go back on it. To do so would be to throw Italy into the arms of Germany.

There remains England, and England is prepared to do anything to prevent Italy capture Abyssinia except perhaps going to a war with Italy single-handed. As the Paris Press has pointed out, the Abyssinian crisis is developing into a trial of strength between England and Italy in the Mediterranean. England can put an end to all Italian dream simply by closing the Suez canal to Italian transport ships and blockading the Mediterranean, but Italy seems to be ready for such an eventuality. Yet for England to allow a free hand to Italy would be quite dangerous. If Italy succeeds in conquering Abyssinia, she might very well become the dominant Power in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea, in addition to getting control over the head water of the Nile. Mussolini, of course, has tried to assure England, that Italy, when she occupies Abyssinia will respect British rights and interests in the headwaters of the Nile, but if

Italy commands the most vital link in the chain of Imperial communicants through her command of the eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea. England's power and prestige will be dealt a heavy blow. Yet it seems not at all certain that England will enter into a single-handed contest with Italy though some significant reports have come from Malta.

## PROTECTION FOR GLASS INDUSTRY IN INDIA

We have pointed out in a previous issue of this paper how the Government had refused to listen to the Tariff Board's recommendations about the granting of protection to the glass industry. As might have been expected, the refusal of the Government to listen to the Tariff Board has created a stir among the Indian business community and a lengthy statement has been issued over the signatures of Sir P. C. Roy, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, Sir Badridas Goenka and Mr. D. N. Sen about it. The signatories have asked the Government for protection of the industry as well as have appealed to the people to aid the industry by patronising it as a "Swadeshi industry. We give the statement below at its full length, though it is rather long, and hope it will serve its two-fold purpose. We may say in passing, here, that the rejection of the Tariff Board's recommendation by the Government has attained an additional importance in view of the apprehension gaining ground in India for some time past that the Government is slowly though surely attempting to destroy the fiscal autonomy of India based on the fiscal convention. The outcome of the issue will in this sense be very important and have a significant effect upon India.

We proceed to give the statement :

"The argument which the Government have put forward in justification of their decision seems to us to be untenable in respect of their reference to the dependence of the industry on important soda ash as being a factor calculated to weaken the position of the industry, even if protection was granted to it

"Apart from the fact that the figures given in the resolution of the Government regarding the proportionate share of the cost of soda ash in the manufacture of glass products are much higher than what actually represents the percentage ratio of the cost of soda ash to the total cost of production, we are surprised to find that the Government should have turned down the claims of the industry to protection on such a flimsy ground as its dependence on the foreign countries for the supply of soda ash, particularly after the very definite opinion expressed by the Tariff Board that such dependence does not, by itself, invalidate the claims of the industry to receive protection from Government.

"The Board has rightly pointed out that in adjusting the claims of any industry to protection due attention should be given to the question as to whether the natural advantages which the industry possesses in other respects can counterbalance the disadvantages which it has to suffer on account of its dependence for one or two of its raw materials on imports from foreign countries ; and it has been clearly shown that the balance of advantages in the case of the glass industry fully justifies the grant of adequate protective measure to the industry.

"We have carefully gone through the Report of the Tariff Board and have also discussed the question with individual glass manufacturers and we have no hesitation in endorsing the observations of the Tariff Board in this respect. In our view, there is thus no justification for the policy of inaction of the Government and we firmly

believe that the industry deserved to be treated more sympathetically at the hands of the Government of India.

"While, however, we would strongly urge upon the Government of India to reconsider their decision and grant adequate protection to the industry we would, at the same time, request our countrymen to contribute their quota to the development of an industry which has been in existence for a considerable time in India and has made notable progress during the last few years both in respect of the increase in their output and also in that of the improvement of the quality of their products.

"A large amount of capital has already been sunk in the industry which employs more than 5,000 men and produces half a crore worth of glass-ware annually and we request them to consider the possibilities of a tremendous setback to the general industrial progress of the country if a large number of glass factories throughout the country have to close down on account of the unsympathetic attitude of the Government towards them.

"It is, therefore, necessary that the general public should extend their patronage to the products manufactured by the indigenous glass factories in preference to the cheaper, but at the same time much inferior products of foreign countries."

## THE FUTURE OF BENGAL DETENUS

The Government of Bengal have decided upon giving to carefully selected detenus, at the expense of the State, a training which would enable them to assist in developing the natural resources of the country both to their own profit and to the advantage of the country at large. His Excellency the Governor of Bengal in course of his address to the members of the Bengal Legislative Council on 28th August last, on the Future of Bengal's Detenus, said :

"I consider that the State should recognize that it is incumbent upon it to do what it can to give such detenus who have been led astray by a perverted idealism a chance of turning their energies and their abilities into useful channels. Merely to set them loose on the country without definite evidence of their reformation would be to take an undue and unjustifiable risk both to society, and to the detenus themselves, many of whom would undoubtedly again fall an easy prey to the terrorist recruiter. An alternative solution has, therefore to be found which will afford reasonable security to society by reducing to a minimum the risk of early relapse.

"Government have, after long and careful deliberation, decided upon giving to carefully selected detenus at the expense of the State, a training which will enable them to assist in developing the natural resources of the country both to their own profit and to the advantage of the country at large. It is proposed to train them in those forms of agriculture—fruit-farming, kitchen gardening and the like—in which there is scope for the intelligence and organizing power of the *bhadralok* youth and which have hitherto been neglected.

"On the industrial side training will be given in the manufacture of articles which it is expected will yield a fair profit and at the same time help to make the province self-sufficient.

"Both on the agricultural and on the industrial side an endeavour will be made in a practical way to show the advantages of co-operative methods and if circumstances are favourable, it may be possible to arrange for a full course of co-operative training with or without supplementary training in the application of co-operative methods to various forms of agriculture or industry.

"The experiments proposed are necessarily tentative and their development will have to be guided by the experience gained in their working. Their success or failure will depend primarily upon the extent to which the detenus are prepared to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them.

"It will be necessary, therefore, to select the detenus with great care and the first opportunity will be given to those who have the necessary aptitude and have satisfied Government that they do honestly intend to discard the path of terrorism for a way of life alike profitable to themselves and useful to the community.

"Provision will be made, in the first instance, for the training of a few hundred only and during their training they will have to be kept under some form of restraint. At the end of the period of training they will be released provided their conduct and their general attitude have been found to be satisfactory. As soon as it is found that the experiments give definite promise of success, their scope will be expanded to embrace other suitable forms of agriculture and industry, and in the efforts so made to open up lines of useful activity it may be expected that much valuable light will be thrown on the general problems of unemployment which are so much in the minds of all of us, so that good to the province as a whole may ultimately come out of this great evil.

"The essence of the scheme is the making of a determined effort to solve the problem of rehabilitating the detenus in the normal life of the community and incidentally to strike at the same time a hammer blow at the problem of general unemployment.

"I wish particularly to emphasize this aspect of the matter, namely, that the benefits of the scheme, if it proves a success, will accrue to the community as a whole. Government will therefore watch with interest efforts on the part of individuals or institutions to follow up and apply the results obtained so that this gigantic problem may be gradually brought to solution and they will welcome any co-operation that may be offered for making the attempt on which they are now embarking a success."

This is another instance of the masterly grasp of a real problem and determination to solve it.

The way His Excellency is handling the pressing problems of Bengal one after another shows real statesmanship. The Bengal Economic Board, the Jute Restriction Scheme, the Bengal Development Bill, the Bengal Educational Reorganisation Scheme, Scheme for the relief of educated middle class unemployment—all owe their origin to His Excellency's initiation. But between the conception of a scheme and its execution the transformation is sometimes so great as to raise doubt in the author if it was his scheme which was worked out. We only hope similar fate will not await Sir John Anderson's schemes.

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## Notes \* News \* Comments

### Bombay Governor on the University's duty

'I take a high view of the duties and responsibilities of an university. I should regard it as a misfortune if it should become merely an institution for the production of B. A.'s', declared Lord Brabourne, Chancellor of the Bombay University addressing the graduates today at the annual convocation.

The true object of an university, continued his Excellency, was not success in passing examinations but encouragement of deep study in a subject for the attainment of real knowledge and consequently, training of the mind.

While recognizing that examinations are a necessary evil, his Excellency thought, that they should be kept in a secondary and subsidiary place. By this he did not mean that the standard of the university examination should be lowered; on the contrary he would urge a raising of the standard of the degree examination, thus making the degree a hall-mark of learning and scholarship.

His Excellency referred to the influence of the university on unemployment and said that there were several unemployed among the B. A.'s who were not prepared to take to agriculture or any other work except clerical, for which it was not necessary to have B. A.'s. Therefore it was a waste of money and time on the part of the students and the university to give university education to boys equipped with less intellectual ability than would ensure a reasonable chance of employment in an occupation demanding a graduate's training. Therefore he urged the raising of the standard of entrance.

### Utilization of Molasses as Manure

Researches carried on in the Chemical laboratories of the Academy of Sciences in U. P. under the direction of Prof. N. R. Dhar and his collaborators on the problem of nitrogen fixation and conservation in soils are of great importance from the practical and industrial point of view.

The rapid expansion of the Indian sugar industry has increased the production of molasses to a great extent. It is estimated that the annual output of molasses from the sugar factories in India is approximately 500,000 tons per annum. Practically this whole amount is being wasted. The Indian sugar industry is faced with the difficult problem of the utilization of this by-product. The easiest and most convenient method is to add this bye-product to the soil in order to increase its fertility. Not only the nitrogen is increased by the addition of molasses to the soil, but the potash which is also present in the molasses, is a valuable plant food. The researches of Prof. Dhar and his collaborators show that amounts of molasses varying from 90 to 270 maunds when added per acre of soil will give beneficial results in the cultivation of rice, wheat, sugar-cane and other crops. The molasses should always be added two to three months before

the sowing of the crop after mixing with water and the soil well ploughed after the addition of molasses. It is difficult to obtain any good out of molasses when added to the growing crop or plant. The results obtained at the Shahjehanpur Government farm show that the yield of sugar-cane is increased by 36 per cent. when molasses are added to the soil before the planting of sugarcane, but no increased yield is observed when molasses are added to the growing plant.

Molasses as fertilizer for improving the crop yield are being utilized by some tea estates in Assam, in several farms in Behar, United Provinces, Bengal, and Madras under instructions from Prof. Dhar.

### **Meaning of Rural Development**

At a crowded meeting of the Rural Development Board at Malihabad in the Lucknow district with the sub-divisional officer in the chair, Mr. S. P. Andrews-Dube of the Servants of India Society and joint secretary of the Lucknow Rural Development Board, delivered an impressive speech on the urgency of rural reform. He quoted from the examples of villages in England and Europe how they were kept clean and how the people had learnt to co-operate with their fellows in maintaining traditions of village unity and welfare. Educated people after retirement lived in villages and promoted poor people's interest by their time and money. The rural leaders in India must set an example in better living and pride in their ancestral homes to their less fortunate brethren before much was expected to be accomplished. The speaker showed how the problem of bread, health and education was interlinked, and progress all round would follow in the same ratio as they progressed in their character and discipline. The problem of village uplift as other national problems of India centered round the moral base.

### **Rural uplift through Scouting**

In opening the Annual Conference of district and organising Scout Masters at Allahabad Pandit H. N. Kunzru laid great emphasis on the necessity of rural uplift through Scouting.

One important factor of the education of children was to teach them good habits, to inculcate in them a spirit of brotherhood, of doing good to others and of service to the motherland ; and in his view one great means of attaining that ideal was Scouting.

One aim of scouting was to make children leaders. They should be taught the spirit of leadership. The village children should also be taught to learn self-help and imbibe the spirit of service to others and the spirit of leadership.

With regard to the method of teaching scouting in villages, Mr. Kunzru emphasized that the scoutmasters should first make a social survey of village and adopt methods which would suit the surroundings. The first thing to be taught in a village should be one in which the villagers would be greatly interested and in that way the scoutmasters would win the sympathies of the villagers.

### **Dr. Moonje on need for Co-operation**

Stressing the need for co-operation at the Andhra Swarajist Conference, Dr. Moonje said that to achieve true Hindu-Muslim unity they must develop a bold mentality of self-confidence. It was for this purpose that Swarajists and Nationalists had to make up their minds and disdain to depend helplessly on others.

They should invite and welcome the co-operation of all, irrespective of caste, creed or colour. They should combine and invade the Legislatures and, capturing the Government, carry on the administration in such a way as to lead minorities to feel that their true interests lay not in separation from nationalism but in an honest, loyal co-operation with them on perfectly equal terms.

He was sure that if they demonstrated their determination to carry on the administration on these lines, British people would amend the Constitution of their own accord at the earliest opportunity.

### **All-India Rural Uplift Conference at Delhi**

On the suggestion of Mr. J. N. Shukla, organizing secretary of the Country Welfare League, Delhi, and the member of the Central Rural Uplift Board, Delhi Province, it has been decided to call an all-India rural uplift conference in Delhi during the next winter. Sardar Sahib Mehtab Singh, superintendent of industries, Delhi Province, and rural uplift adviser and Sir Muhammad Yakub, kt., M. L. A., patron, respectively, will guide the League by their valuable advice.

Dewan Sambhu Nath Chopra, editor of the *Swaraja*, will act as publicity secretary of the Conference. In addition to the representatives of *bonafide* associations working for village welfare in India, certain other prominent persons and leading zamindars will be invited to participate in the deliberations of the conference. High officials of various Government departments such as Education, Public Health, Industries, agriculture, Co-operative and Animal husbandry will also be requested to address the conference.

### **Bills to amend Bihar Tenancy Act**

Land seems this year to be a special favourite of legislators all over India, and scarcely has Bengal dealt with the Rural Development Bill, than Ranchi is going to deal with a proposed amendment of the Orissa Tenancy Act. Mr. S. M. Hafeez it is reported, will introduce a Bill to amend the Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859, in the present session of the Bihar Council which has been opened on the 26th of August.

The Bill provides for giving notice to the recorded proprietors of an estate in the event of the sale of the estate for arrears of Government revenue. Under the existing law a proprietor has no means of obtaining information of an impending sale and therefore the amending Bill seeks to lay down that the proprietor should be duly informed of the estate being in default and of its being notified for sale.

Mr. Godavari Misra is also reported to have a desire to pilot a Bill to amend the Orissa Tenancy Act of 1913.

The Bill follows the lines of the amendments introduced into the tenancy law of Bihar by the amending Act of 1934, and vests in the tenant the right in respect of the use of land and in trees, reduces the landlord's fee on transfer of the tenant's holding and applies the provision with regard to the transfer of holdings to permanently settled estates. The amendment proposed in the definition of tenure-holders seeks to give relief to a number of "miadi sarbarakars" who stand the risk of being ejected.

There are many provisions in the Bengal Land Revenue Sales Act, 1859, which are unduly hard towards the landlords. They were perhaps needed in the days of their framing when the Government had to depend entirely on the Land Revenue and its punctual realisation meant everything to it; but those days are now happily over and we think the "sunset law" along with its satellites can well be modified towards leniency. Mr. Hafeez's amendment therefore commands our full support and we hope it will be imitated in Bengal where such a relaxation of regulation is urgently needed in view of the increasing difficulties of the landlords.

### **Landholders' Seats in U. P.**

SIX special seats have been reserved in this province for landholders. The United Provinces Government propose to divide them equally between the (1) Taluqdars of Oudh Constituency, and (2) the Agra Province zamindars of Allahabad Constituency. A person will be qualified as an elector to the Taluqdars of Oudh Constituency who is an ordinary member of the British Indian Association of Oudh ; and a person will be qualified as an elector to the Agra Province zamindars of Allahabad Constituency who is an ordinary member of the Agra Province Zamindars' Association of Allahabad. Candidates should in addition to possessing the qualifications mentioned in paragraph 21 (1) and (2) above, have their names registered on the electoral roll of the Constituency concerned. The present membership of the British Indian Association of Oudh is 373 and of the Agra Province Zamindars' Association of Allahabad is 716.

### **Council Proceedings in Bihar and Orissa**

In the Bihar Legislative Council numerous questions of importance were brought for discussion one of them being adjustment of assets and liabilities between the new Government of Orissa and Bihar.

Replying to Rai Bahadur Lachhmi Prasad Sinha, Finance Secretary, stated that no final decision was taken in the matter.

The amount of capital invested in canals in Orissa was Rs. 2,71,87,000 and the amount of interest paid on it per annum was Rs. 8,86,000 and the total amount of interest paid upto the last financial year was Rs. 5,69,19,000 (this figure includes interest on the capital met from revenue as well as from loans).

Replying to Mr. Sachichidananda Sinha, Mr. R. E. Russell, Chief Secretary, stated that the Government were not in a position to say when the new province of Orissa was likely to be inaugurated but arrangements were being made with a view to making it possible to effect separation on April next year, if His Majesty-in-Council should so decide.

There was also discussion on the Government scheme for utilising the Government of India's grant of Rs. 12½ lakhs for rural development in the province. Non-official amendments, that the proposed scheme was not likely to secure the objects desired and demanding the formation of a committee to prepare a scheme which would really conduce to the amelioration of the conditions of the masses, were rejected.

### **How Assam proposes to tackle her middle-class unemployment**

Sometime ago the Government of Assam appointed a committee to enquire into the causes of middle-class unemployment and to suggest the necessary remedies. Such Unemployment Enquiry Committees are by no means any new innovation. India, whatever else she might suffer from, has never suffered from commissions and committees to diagnose her ills and prescribe remedies, and during the last decade a number of such committees, in different provinces of India, have submitted their recommendations. Nothing tangible however has yet resulted from them except perhaps an extension of our knowledge of how many possible ways there are of "belling the cat", though no Government has yet shown itself forward enough to try any one of them. The Assam Government however seems to think that a Committee's purpose is not served with the issue of its report and is trying to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee. The Government have taken action on the following lines :—

(1) Economic Survey : The question as to what can be done in the absence of sufficient funds for a large scale survey, is under consideration.

(2) Assam Stores : The Government are prepared to do what is possible to offer a market for satisfactory local products in the shape of Government requirements. The standardization of such requirements is under consideration by the Bureau of Industrial Research and Intelligence, which is in correspondence with the Assam Government in this matter.

(3) Development of Cottage Industries. The schemes for the improvement of the handloom and sericultural industries, etc., have already been sanctioned and given effect with the help of a grant from the Government of India.

(4) Soap Industry . A scheme for giving peripatetic instruction has been sanctioned. This scheme will enable Government to obtain evidence as to the possibilities of the business.

(5) Agricultural Colonies . Pending discovery of the large tracts of suitable land that are postulated, Government have decided, as a preliminary step, to undertake training in agriculture of the prospective settlers and have sanctioned a scheme for training unemployed youths on the existing farms.

(6) Printing Industry : A scheme for training of apprentices in the Government Press is now under consideration of the Government.

(7) Service of youths of the Province : The Government have addressed the authorities concerned, the railways, steamer, oil and coal companies, tea gardens and insurance companies and have pressed the Committee's point of view, viz., employment of educated young men of Assam in such concerns.

It is as yet too early to say anything about the merits or the prospects of the scheme. Its success will depend primarily upon two factors, upon the zeal with which it will be worked and upon the finance it will be able to command, and at present it is too premature to speak authoritatively upon either. There is a good deal of difference between the planning of a scheme and the working of it, and money, we are afraid, will always be scarce for public services in India.

### **Dictatorship or Democracy ?**

Dewan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar in the course of a lecture on 'Democracy or Dictatorship' at Vepery, Madras, said that the democratic form of government was considered the ideal one in the nineteenth century, and the form of government in Britain was regarded as the best model that any country could adopt. After the Great War, however, doubts were entertained by a certain school of thought whether democracy could be considered the best for people. Dictatorship, he said, was, after all, in fundamentals democracy under a cloak.

It is true that under democracy parties and cliques come into existence which swayed the mind of the electorate, thus leaving the goal of democracy, viz., the greatest good of the greatest number, unattained. It is also true that the parliamentary system involved a great ideal of dilatoriness in the conduct of the business of government and that it had failed to solve the vital problems of the nation.

Yet under dictatorship individuals could never enjoy liberty of action, freedom of thought and freedom of speech. Dictatorship could only be beneficial, if the individual dictator was a Superman. It was very difficult to find far-seeing and all-powerful individual who could control the activities of a whole nation. Even if there was such a one, the happiness of the nation could not be ensured unless there was a perpetual succession of such dictators—which was impossible.

In times of crisis, it might be necessary and even good to have a dictatorship. Of the two forms of Government, one would certainly agree that democracy was the best fitted form of Government for ensnaring the greatest good of the greatest number.

### **Distress in Birbhum**

An esteemed correspondent writes thus from Birbhum :

I am surprised and sorry that you have published in the July issue of your Journal a set of silly and ill-informed paragraphs from Mr. Nitya Narayan Banerjee of Labpore.

Evidently, Mr. Nitya Narayan knows nothing of what he is writing about ; otherwise, he would not have commenced his precious lucubrations with an error in three dimensions:

He says : "Famine has already been declared in Birbhum". We rub our eyes and ask—when ? where ? how ? Where did Mr. Nitya Narayan pick up this precious piece of information from ? It would be news indeed to both the government and the people. Is it not a pity that men who don't possess the most elementary bit of information about their District should yet pretend to speak on behalf of the District ?

With the presumption born of ignorance, Mr. Nitya Narayan goes on to say : "people have lost all faith in relief works run with the help of Government contributions".—This may be true of Mr. Nitya Narayan, his family and his family-group, but it is utterly untrue of the District at large. There was relief-work managed by the Government in 1929, and there has been relief work run by the non-official agency of the District Board in 1935. The difference between the work of these two years is so broad and obvious and so much in favour of non-official agency that a man with ordinary intelligence can read it and draw the lesson. With the money placed at their disposal, the District Board has constructed more than 300 miles of excellent *kulcha* road and has re-excavated nearly 50 tanks—and all this at an overhead expenditure of less than 5%.

Mr. Nitya Narayan, with a great flourish of generosity, says : "rents should be remitted". Then why does he not begin the good work in his own estates ? Ah, but there is a slight difficulty in the way. Government must begin the work by remitting the revenue. Why, Sir, the revenue raised by the Government bears such a small proportion to the rent realized by the zemindars that the latter would have ample scope for remission even if the Government did nothing. But this is the way with zemindars of the type of Mr. Nitya Narayan. They will do nothing for their tenants, they will only wait for things to be done by the Government !

### Burdwan Flood

At a meeting of the citizens of Calcutta held at the Town Hall under the presidency of Sir Harold Derbyshire, Chief Justice, a strong Committee with the Chief Justice as patron and the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan as President was formed to take steps, raise funds and alleviate the sufferings of the distressed people in the flood-affected areas in Burdwan and other districts.

The Bengal Governor in a message associated himself with the objects of the meeting.

Donations amounting to a little over Rs. 10,000 received up to date were announced at the meeting.

The Government placed at the disposal of the Collector Rs. 45,000 for distribution as agricultural loan and Rs. 10,000 for gratuitous relief, of which Rs. 5,000 would be distributed to assist people in rebuilding houses.

As regards medical relief, five doctors and six sanitary inspectors

were sent out with 24 pounds of Cholera mixture, 16,000 influenza tablets, 60 cwt. of bleaching powder and 16,000 doses of anti-cholera vaccine.

The following donations were announced :—

Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan, Rs. 2,500 Rai Bahadur Hazari Mull Doodwawala, Rs. 500 ; Rai Bahadur Mongutu Lal Tapuriah, Rs. 500 ; Messre. Sewdayal Ramji Das, Rs. 500 , Messrs Sir Sarup Chand Hukumchand, Rs. 500 ; Sir Badridas Goenka, Rs. 500 ; Messrs Surujmul Nagarmull, Rs. 500, ; Messrs. Jaidayal Horgoo Lall, Rs. 500 ; Sm. Pryambada Devi of Chakdighi, Rs. 500 ; Sir B. P. Singha Roy, Rs. 500 ; (second instalment) ; Sir U. N. Brahmachari, Rs 500 ; Sir Harold Derbyshire, Rs. 250 ; Maharaj Kumar Udaychand Mahtab of Burdwan, Rs. 250 ; Maharaj Kumar Abhoy Chand Malatab of Burdwan, Rs. 200 ; Sir John Woodhead, Rs. 200 ; Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, Rs. 100 ; Sir B. L. Mitter, Rs. 200 ; Mr R. N. Reid, Rs. 200 ; Nawab K. G. M. Faroqui, Rs. 100 ; Khan Bahadur M Azizul Huq, Rs. 200 ; Rai Bahadur Ram Deo Choukhany, Rs. 150 , Messrs. Sanai Ram Ram Coomar, Rs. 150 ; Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar, Rs. 50 ; Mr. R. R. Khan, Rs. 100 ; Sir A. H. Ghuznavi, Rs. 250. Mr. Nath Mall Chowdhuri, Rs. 100 ; Mrs. C. C. Basu Rs. 100 ; Nawab Musharruf Hussain Rs. 500 ; Kumar H. K. Mitter, Rs 250; Sir Haji Sankar Paul, Rs. 500 ; Raja Sir M. N. Roy Choudhuri of Santosh, Rs. 100 ; Maharaja Tagore Rs. 1,000 ; Babu Atul Chunder Chowdhuri, Rs. 1,000 . Babu Kedar Nath Poddar, Rs. 250 . Pramatha Paramanik and Rakhal das Paramanick, Rs. 100 and Dr. S. C. Law, Rs. 300.

### Bahraich District Floods

The river Rapti was in high flood and washed away some of the crops on its bank in the Aliabad and Bhangha estates.

Nawab Nawizish Ali Khan left Bahraich for Aliabad to render all possible help to the tenants.

The Deputy Commissioner also went to Nanpara to see what steps were necessary for the protection of crops and cattle in the inundated areas of the Nanpara estate and the Tehsildar of Nanpara instructed the patwari to convey the necessary warnings to the tenants and others who came from other places to graze their cattle in the Tarai.

### Floods in Sunderbans area

At an emergent meeting of the executive committee of the Sunderban Landholders' Association, held on Wednesday, the 4th September at 4 p. m. in the British Indian Association Hall, the serious situation brought about by the flood havoc in the Sunderban area was discussed. The magnitude of misery was brought home to the members by the graphic reports of calamity from Mr. W. C. Dey, Agent, Port Canning Company, and vice-President of the Association, and Mr. J. N. Sircar, President of the Canning Bidyadhari Flood Relief Committee, who was specially invited to the meeting for placing before it a statement as to the extent of havoc done to the people of the affected area.

The report of Mr W. C. Dey reads thus :—

The Sunderban Abads were visited by sea water conveyed by tremendously high tidal bores during the last spring tides so much so that almost all the embankments of the abads were overtapped causing alarming breaches in the bunds, through which salt water rushed in-land occasioning total damage to the paddy crop, which is the only crop grown by the Sunderban ryots, and raging mudhuts to the ground.

The misery of the people knows know bound. The abads are below high-water level by 5 to 7 ft. The devastation has extended over not less than 30 sq. miles of land. Besides the illfated people of the area, some 40,000 (forty thousand) cattle with other domestic animals have been put into extremely perilous situation. Many people are fasting for days together with a handful of "Chira" and without any drinking water. Mr. Dey telegraped to the District Board chairman praying his help in the matter. He personally approached the District Authorities. The S. D. O. saddr and Circle Officer visited the flooded area. The Port Canning Company are supplying sweet water from Canning by means of boat and have started protection works in the Tambuldaah abad by closing the breakages in the boundary bunds and riverside embankments.

**In his report Mr. Sarkar says :**

The flood came over the Sunderban area on the fateful day of the 16th of August last. On the receipt of the alarming news, he with some other friends paid a visit to the area and saw by means of a very powerful fieldglass, the range of which was 25 miles, that there was nothing but water upto the end of that vast expanse, the mud huts appearing like so many black spots on a canvas. There was breast high water in the paddy fields. The distressed people were waiting for rescue. After the visit, a meeting was organised for raising funds for rescuing the unfortunate victims. A nominal sum of Rs 500 five hundred only was collected ; but it was only a drop in the ocean. Five or six dinghis were hired for rescuing purpose and for supplying sweet water. Extreme misery is prevailing in the locality. In comparison with the Damodar area which has been flooded by sweet water, the misery of the Sunderban people is no less acute due to the inroads of salt water. Burdwan people can live on sweet water in the extreme moment, but that has been denied to the people of this saltwater area.

Table showing the extent of havoc done.

Lot	No of vill	Population	Damage	area affected
1. Tambuldaah	16	6000	all crops, plant, houses 75 p.c tank filled with saltwater, 7 deaths from cholera, dysentery	14000 bighas
2. Moukhali	7	5500	crops-all, plants-all, houses 85 p.c., cattle 10 p.c., 3 attacks and one death from cholera, dysentery	13000 bighas
3. Sarengabad	4	2000	do one death reported	10,000 bighas
4. Bibirabad	7	5000	crops & plants all, houses 60 p.c., cattle 5 p.c. no epidemic reported yet	7000 bighas
5. Patikhali			crops-all	12500 bighas
6. Iswariapur			plants-all	
7. Netrabad			houses 50 p.c.	
8. Chelikati			cattle 5 p. c.	
9. Homra palta				
10. Satbaria				
11. Garan baria			crops-all	10,700 bighas
12. Mathurapur				
13. Naora				

Some of the zemindars of the locality concerned have already started relief work first of all by closing the breaches in the bunds.

In the opinion of the Committee the crying need of the moment is : -

1. To remove salt water, and to provide drinking water by sinking of at least ten tube wells in the effected area.
2. To close down the breakages in the embankments.

3. To provide finances for building houses.
4. To provide food for the hungry people.

The committee further decided to raise a fund for the purpose and to appeal to the Government and public alike to stretch their helping hand in this trying moment of the suffering humanity.

## Debt Conciliation

A Press Note issued by the Government of Bengal, says :—

A reduction in debt by more than 52 p. c. as a result of awards amounting to nearly Rs. 2 lakhs and a half on claims over Rs. 5 lakhs against a principal of a little over Rs. 2 lakhs, improvement in the relations between the debtors and the creditors with a resultant reduction in crime and litigation—this is the record to the credit of Debt Conciliation Boards set up in the Chandpur Subdivision of the Tippera District. The Boards have killed the agrarian agitation in the Subdivision and rendered any possibility of its revival an extremely remote contingency.

As an experiment in debt conciliation this is of special interest in view of the measures that Government contemplate for a solution of the problem of rural indebtedness. It was not till the middle of the last year when the agrarian agitation consequent upon the prevailing economic depression had been finally put down, that the local authorities found it possible to attempt a rapprochement between the Mahajans and the debtors by arranging an amicable settlement of the outstanding disputes between the two.

The success which the first of the Boards set up with this object, achieved led to the establishment of six other boards. The choice of arbitrators who were to constitute the Boards was left to the parties and from amongst the men so nominated by them not more than five, mostly members of Union Boards with considerable local influence were selected to form a Board. The methods of the Boards were simple and in effect a practical extension of the old custom whereby settlement of petty disputes goes on almost daily in the villages. No evidence was to be recorded; the awards were to be unanimous, disagreements were to be brought to the notice of the authorities and there was fullest discretion in the matter of awards as long as they had the consent of the parties.

The Boards showed such commendable tact and ability in the settlement of disputes, that it was decided to employ them tentatively on debt conciliation. After some hesitation, when the position was explained to them, a very considerable proportion of the Mahajans accepted debt conciliation, as an amicable, inexpensive and expeditious means of recovering at least a part of their loans, specially when there was default on such a large scale.

The change in the nature of the work of the Boards necessitated a uniformity in procedure, which was secured by a set of simple instructions given verbally, their observance being left to the parties themselves. Briefly the instructions were that the settlements should as far as possible be final in cash or lands, that where instalments were allowed fresh bonds were to be executed and, if necessary, registered, with a penal clause in the agreement that in case of default the Mahajan would be entitled to claim interest at a higher rate, that some cash must be paid in every case, the intention being to keep out frivolous petitions and encourage Mahajans to come to the Boards lastly that as far as possible all the Mahajans of the debtor should be called together and a joint settlement aimed at.

Where instalments are allowed their number is kept low as far as possible and extends to anything up to 10 and rarely to 15. Interest allowed varies between 9 and 25 p. c. and in deserving cases it is reduced still further or remitted altogether. Debt conciliation on these lines is proceeding steadily and is proving popular. Interest ceases to accrue where instalments are allowed; if this fact be taken into consideration, the reduction in claims will be found to have exceeded 52 p. c.

At present there are 39 Boards of this type working in the Subdivision. Most of these Boards are of very recent origin, the success of the pioneer Boards in the

field, to whom mainly the reduction in claims is due, having led to their establishment.

### **Rockefeller at 96**

Mr. Rockefeller celebrated his 96th birthday on 8th July last by cutting a big birthday cake and giving a slice of it to his "little playmate", four-year-old Lucille Frascoe, daughter of his chauffeur. His apparent good health raised hopes that he may live to be 100. He himself said he "never felt better in many years." A physician pronounced him O. K.

The birthday cake, which weighed 63 pounds, was nearly two feet in diameter and bore 96 candles. Then there was also a huge bouquet of flowers, the gift of a friend. The bouquet contained 96 flowers, of all different varieties. The retired oil magnate's birthday party was attended only by the immediate members of his family and a few other close relatives and friends.

The Rockefeller birthday is an annual event of international interest. He has done a great deal to fight disease. He has contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to education and science. Looking far ahead, he has caused scientists, financed by him, to concentrate on prevention of disease, rather than mere cure.

Though John D. Rockefeller has not been exactly a saint in his methods of accumulating a vast fortune, his public benefactions, in America and abroad, will not soon be forgotten. Thanks to a life of temperance, Mr. Rockefeller has every prospect of celebrating his one hundredth birthday.

### **Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga**

The work of reconstruction in Darbhanga is proceeding steadily. The Maharajadhiraja, who returned from Ranchi, inspected personally the Raj area and discussed some urgent matters with the Chairman of the Municipality and the District Magistrate.

The new Raj Library building, the residence of the Maharaja-kumar and the extension of the Raj guest House are nearing completion.

The Janmashtami festival at the Raj palace lasted for six days. A devotional congregation, presided over by Pt. Girindra Mohan Misra, the acting Chief Manager of the Darbhanga Raj, was held on the Janmashtami day at the Darbhanga Medical School.

25 poor Maithila Students, of whom 4 belonged to the Darbhanga Medical School, were selected by the Maithila Mahasabha for the award of Sri Kamleshwara stipend during the current session.

### **Maharaja of Hathwa**

Sir Brojendra and Lady Mitter were entertained recently at a party given in their honour by the Maharaja of Hathwa at Hathwa House, 15, Camac Street, Calcutta.

## Charities and Benevolences

The Carmichael Medicael College and Hospitals were the recipients of several substantial donations which reflect great credit to the public and philanthropic spirit of the donors. Sreemati Nirmalnalinu Bose and Mr. Chaitanya Charan Bhur, Calcutta, have given donations of Rs. 4000, each to the Carmichael Medical College and Hospitals. Donations of Rs. 501 and Rs. 500 respectively have also been given by Mr. Mrigendralal Neogi and Sreemati Umasashi Dasi.

## Cow Protection

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bihar Provincial Cow Protection Association was held under the chairmanship of the Maharajakumar of Darbhanga. The rules and Memorandum of Association were adopted and it was decided that the Association be registered under the Societies' Registration Act. The next annual conference of the Association will be held at Bettiah (in Champaran district) where preparations for reception are already being made. A deputation of the Association is to tour the Province for securing pasture lands from zemindars.

## OBITUARY

Nawab Abdus Samad Khan Bahadur of Chhatari and Talibnagar, uncle of Nawab Sir Ahmad Sa'id Khan of Chhatari, who has been ailing for some time, died on 27th August last at the age of 76. A large number of officials, *raises*, University officials and leading citizens of Aligarh attended the funeral.

Nawab Abdus Samad Khan was a foundation member of the University and an early co-worker of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. The Nawab was well known for his charity to public institutions.

We offer our sincere condolence to the bereaved family.

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## **EDITOR'S NOTICE.**

*The "Landholders' Journal" is, as its title indicates, the accredited organ of the landholding community of India. It has come into existence to promote the interests —political, social and economic, of the landholding classes, and must necessarily depend for its success on the active co-operation and assistance of the community which it serves.*

*The policy of the Journal is progressive and dictated by one ideal — progress of the country as a whole along constitutional lines and without impairment of the basic rights of the zemindar community closely allied as they are with those of their tenants.*

*The Editor cordially invites articles and contributions on problems of interest to the country in general and to the landholding community in particular, items of personal and district news, reports of political and social events, autobiographical and biographical sketches with photographs of prominent members of the landholding community and photographs of general topical interest.*

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## The Indian Political Situation

The feverish heat which characterised the Indian political atmosphere during the last few years has considerably subsided to allow of a dispassionate study of the aims, relative position and strength of the various political parties and groups in the country at present. Such a study will be helpful in making a forecast about the fate of the new Constitution.

### CONGRESS PARTY

The prospects of the Congress party do not appear to be very hopeful. Uncompromising critics of the new Constitution, and bitterly opposed to all moves in all stages in the evolution of the new Constitution, the Congress have proved, beyond doubt, that they are not at all enamoured of it. They will not work the Constitution, and in fact they cannot, being true to their election pledge and the Assembly resolution rejecting the Constitution whose passage they secured with the help of other parties.

Those who think that there are signs of growing dissensions in the Congress camp owing to the stiff attitude taken by the socialist group, which will sooner or later bring about a complete disruption of the Congress organisation, must be labouring under an illusion. Upon a close analysis the talks of the right as well as the left-wingers in the Congress will be found to contain no difference at all. The difference, if any, is fundamentally one of procedure and not of the objective which both have in view. The question of capturing the legislatures, central and provincial, and local bodies and municipalities is included in the programme of both the sections. It is only upon the question of acceptance of office that there is a quarrel. The right-wingers want to accept office in order to use power which holding of office will give them, for effectively wrecking the Constitution.

The left-wingers want to do the same remaining out of office. The ultimate object in both cases is the same. But the means which the latter intend to adopt to gain the end seem to be more honourable than those of the former.

The following extracts from the letter which a section of the pro-Socialist Congressites addressed to prominent Congressmen in the country reveal a mentality, which is peculiarly characteristic of the Congress, at once barren and perverted :

The question of the new Constitution is agitating the mind of every thinking Congressman. It is a question, any decision regarding which is bound to exercise an immediate influence over the evolution of the Congress and the struggle for Independence. A wrong decision at this stage may disrupt the Congress and dissipate the forces of direct action, which constitutes its real strength.

Any move that strengthens constitutionalism diverts so much national energy from the main task and undermines the true character of the Congress. You are aware that during the past few months prominent Congressmen have repeatedly said that 'parliamentarianism has come to stay in the Congress.'

Parliamentarianism is only another word for constitutionalism and ought to have no place in an organisation like the Congress. There can be nothing common between what has come to be understood by Congress mentality, and the so-called 'parliamentary mentality,' the virus of which it seems to be the particular effort of certain gentlemen to introduce into the Congress.

Forces have arisen in the Congress to-day and are assuming proportions which a few years back, none of us would have been able to conceive. Even as late as a year back, most Congressmen would have found it difficult to believe that acceptance of offices under the coming Constitution would become so soon a matter of practical politics.

The very idea would have seemed absurd to most of us then. And yet, we find to-day that the Ministerial party has gathered so much strength that its spokesmen are already feeling confident of carrying the Congress with them. We have no doubt that the apparent strength of this bears no proportion to reality. The great majority of Congressmen has still as little use for constitutionalism and the ministerial programme as they had ever before.

However it cannot be denied that the ministerial party has gained in strength. In our opinion there have been two reasons for this. Firstly, there has been a failure of leadership : the absence of clear and definite lead being given by those to whom political India has learnt to look for guidance.

Secondly, while the Ministerial party has been carrying on ceaseless propaganda, no organised attempt has been made by Congressmen opposed to that policy to make their opinion felt in the country. The result has been a steady demoralisation of the Congress.

We feel that it is high time now that this process is checked. We are addressing this letter to you in the hope that you will join us in a campaign against the forces of constitutionalism, particularly against the programme of acceptance of offices.

Responsible Congressites however much they delighted recently in parading before the world that Parliamentary mentality possessed the Congress mind and that this mentality had come to stay, are by habits and professions, irreconcilable oppositionists and obstructionists. They are incapable of constructive programme. Their lack of constructive imagination was nowhere better or more markedly revealed than in the Poona Pact which the leader of the Congress wanted to be substituted for the original scheme relating to the representation of depressed classes.

in the coming legislatures. The Poona Pact has not improved a whit the scheme of representation outlined in the White Paper. On the contrary it has already revived and would perpetuate hostility among the different sections of the Hindu community. The Congress record is :

The clock of progress has been set back considerably by irresponsible exploitation of mass ignorance and superstition, and the leaders have failed miserably in all their attempts, little bidding to the advice tendered by other parties and responsible leaders. Now again they talk of wrecking the constitution from within by accepting office. This is another delusion betraying merely a sense of irresponsibility and confusion of ideas.

Good intentions, immeasurable sacrifices and untold sufferings cannot by themselves bring India's goal any the nearer, unless there is behind them that statesmanship which is capable of facing facts and can adjust itself to varying situations under altered circumstances. Congress leaders must cultivate political wisdom before they can hope for any advancement of their ideal.

### THE LIBERALS

This group claims most of the level-headed politicians of India. Although fully conscious of the defects of the new Constitution they sincerely believe that in the working and not in the wrecking of the new constitution the future of India lies. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir spoke the mind of the Liberals when he said that the success of the new Constitution would depend on two factors in the future, namely, a wise and tactful use by Governor-General and the Governors of the vast powers vested in their hands, and secondly, Indians themselves really making every effort to get all that they could out of the new Constitution. "The proof of the pudding lies in eating it" he said, and unless the Indians made serious attempt to taste it, they would never know its possibilities. A successful working of the new Constitution must in a short time make safeguards a dead letter and enable India to take her rightful place in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

In addressing the Cuddalore Bar Association Mr. Srinivasa Sastri stressed the need of working the Constitution in spite of serious defects in it :

Rejection is not in our power. India, divided, harassed and disappointed in her hopes, is as feeble as ever she was politically. For her to say in public that she will reject this constitution is to use words which in political parlance have no significance at all.

The same view was emphasised in an appeal made to the country by Dewan Bahadur A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar to work the reforms in the right spirit with a view to their early revision :

"I believe that we must so work the constitution as not merely to extract the best out of it but, by the very process of working in that spirit, create necessary sanctions for an early revision of the scheme of reforms—a revision which will be more in consonance with public expectations and demand.

The liberal party although it does not suffer from any internal dissensions and stand solidly united by their creed, found the task hitherto of

making its views felt in the country too difficult to attempt. They have very little following. There are too many generals in their camp but no army worth the name to follow their lead and march to battle. With a proper organisation and a little more activity they can hope to have a considerable hold on the mind of the people, and have their plans fulfilled. They must show more grit, energy and stamina than in the past or they must be prepared to be completely effaced from the political picture.

### THE EUROPEANS

The members of this group are almost all of them connected with commercial enterprises in India and the Indian constitutional problems are matters of no great concern to them except in so far as they affect their trading and other special rights. The majority of Englishmen resident in India while fully conscious of the fact that they must cultivate the good opinion of Indians for the success of their callings or trade are with a few exceptions, found apathetic to questions of Indian political reforms as they continue to look upon this country in no other light than as a land of temporary sojourn. Their traditional love for democracy and self-governing institutions seem not called into play due to this indifference.

Although not outwardly opposed to the political aspirations of the people, they have failed hitherto to assist the people materially in their constitutional struggle for self-government. Their activities betray a complete lack of interest in the main issues which vitally affect the political and economic future of India. Moreover the prevailing atmosphere of prejudice against them as an alien people and as representing a reactionary vested interest stands in the way of their contributing their best to the solution of India's problems. Under the circumstances they are not expected to play an important role, much less the role of leaders, in the reformed Councils, central and Provincial.

### THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Of all the minority communities the Mahomedans form the most influential section. Although comparatively backward in education, they possess excellent virtues which make for a great people. But due to the persistence of a communal outlook, the community, generally speaking, have not been able to contribute of their best to the higher national interests. Much of their attention seems to be engrossed in the pursuit of immediate sectional gains. Whatever might be the reasons the fact remains that they are ever found pitted against any national solution of national problems.

Fortunately there is a growing section among them who are found capable of rising above petty communal interests and taking a broader view of things, and it may be hoped that before long the nationalist Muslims in the various provinces will be a potent influence in bringing the rest of

the community to a saner point of view. But till such a consummation is reached the prospects of the community giving a healthy lead to the country in affairs, political and economic, seem to be difficult of realisation.

### THE LANDHOLDING COMMUNITY

We now come to an important part of the country's body politic viz., the landholders. They can claim, more than any other section, a long and continuous connection with the civil, military and revenue administration of the country and in fact have supplied from their ranks the best and the most successful administrators of whom the country may really feel proud. By temperament and training they are best fitted to occupy position of trust and responsibility and this they have done from the earliest times. But their claim to leadership does not rest on these alone. In their solid record of public service as manifested in the execution of various works of public utility throughout the length and breadth of the country, they have ever left other sections miles behind. Through their intimate connection with agriculture—the principal industry of the country—as senior partner in its operations they have a dominant control over the sources of economic wellbeing of the vast majority of Indian's population. They are the natural leaders in the countryside in matters social, no less than economic. Being above the petty wants of life and having ample leisure at their disposal they can put forth their best attention and energy to the solution of national problems. These, cumulatively, will be found to constitute for the landholders an indefeasible claim to leadership in new India.

The task of shaping the country's destiny at a time when forces of disorder and disruption are getting the upperhand is a difficult one; and the obstacles both within the community and without are immense. On the one hand they must counteract the vicious counsels of parties pledged to wrecking the constitution and existing social order, and on the other they must overcome forces which are too often manifest, of dissensions and cleavage in their own ranks.

Thanks to the capable lead which the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga has given in the matter of organisation of zemindars and tenants on non-communal lines, the leaders of the landholding community in some provinces have risen equal to the occasion and are straining every nerve to organise and pool their resources to be able to ward off the attacks on the constitution and work it to the country's best advantage. If they succeed, which we hope they will, they will not only live up to their tradition but make history.

## Sir Hari Sankar Paul

SIR Hari Sankar Paul a brief sketch of whose life is given in the following lines was born in Calcutta in 1888 A.D. His father, the late Babu Butto Kristo Paul, the founder of the largest Druggist House in the East, gave young Hari Sankar a sound education. In college he was a very promising student, but a casual incident changed the course of his career. One Mr. White belonging to an English medicinal concern of very great repute while on tour in India was struck with the robust commonsense, business acumen and extensive knowledge about drug trade of Hari Sankar then still in his teens. On the eve of his leaving the shores of India, Mr. White persistently advised Babu Butto Kristo and his eldest son Babu Bhutnath who was controlling and managing his father's business with conspicuous ability that young Hari Sankar, instead of going in for further University education, should at once join the firm that would surely afford wonderful opportunities and scope for his proper training and for the development of the immense possibilities in him. This valuable suggestion was accepted and now began the initial stage of Hari Sankar's identifying himself with the great concern. Under the direct guidance and watchful care of his illustrious eldest brother Bhutnath Paul, a recognised genius in the medicinal line, Hari Sankar served as an ordinary apprentice in every department of the firm and received a thorough training in the drug trade being gradually initiated into all its complexities. Butto Kristo and Bhutnath with unique assiduity, foresight and honesty developed the firm into the premier medicinal concern in the East. On their death Hari Sankar and his younger brother Hari Mohan showed to the world that the mantles of their father and eldest brother have not fallen on unworthy shoulders.

Besides maintaining the glorious tradition of efficiency and honesty that has secured the House an international repute the credit of developing on an extensive scale its manufacturing activities which were, of course, initiated by his eldest brother Bhutnath, must go to Hari Sankar. His enterprising spirit and 'undoubted' abilities have contributed immensely to the great success of his bold scheme of developing the Research Laboratories of the firm to its present magnificence. With a view to come in personal touch with the leading manufacturers of drugs and surgical instruments in England and the Continent for the purpose of advancing the business interest of the firm, Sir Hari Sankar undertook in 1927 an extensive tour in England and the Continent and secured for his firm the agencies of numerous first class manufacturing Houses of drugs. His

ambition in this respect has so far been realised. The unchallenged supremacy of Butto Kristo Paul & Co. in the line is to-day a matter of national glory. In recognition of the services rendered by the firm to the cause of suffering humanity during the Great War and after, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales honoured it in 1922 by granting it a Warrant of Appointment appointing it Chemists and Druggists to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. In fact the firm of Butto Kristo Paul & Co. having in its employ about 2,500 men gives the direct lie to the alleged lack of initiative, boldness, stamina and enterprising spirit in the Bengalees. Afflicted with defeatism and obsessed with inferiority complex in spheres of enterprise young Bengal has much to be grateful to Hari Sankar who by example and advice, by active sympathy and ready co-operation have encouraged them to manfully forge ahead to secure their rightful place in the trade and industry in the province.

We have thus seen Sir Hari Sankar a man of bold enterprise and strong resolve, of great purpose and unflagging industry, of strong principles and above all of transparent business honesty. Thus equipped with the great qualities that have won him success Sir Hari Sankar had now to come out to contribute his quota of service to public well-being. He has been a Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation since 1924 and the citizens of Calcutta do gratefully appreciate with what a keen sense of responsibility he has always championed the cause of the city's rate-payers. Beside a lot of other important things the glorious improvements effected to the city's Burring Ghat due primarily to his intervention and importunities, will ever remain a monument of his sincerely serving the civic interests. He has been a Trustee to the Calcutta Improvement Trust since 1926, a member of the Railway Rates Advisory Committee, a Vice-President of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, President of the Chemists and Druggists Association, Calcutta. As a director of many Indian concerns like the Bengal Immunity Co., Ltd., the National Insurance Co., Ltd., the Metropolitan Insurance Co., Ltd., the Bangodoy Cotton Mills Ltd., he has tried to further the interest of indigenous industries in the province. He is also on the directorate of the New Birbhum Coal Co., Ltd. He is a member of the Provincial Legislative Council. A life thus worthy and associated with great and noble causes and packed with activities of multifarious types of public utility, must come in for due recognition at the hands of both the people and the Government, and as an expression of this recognition he received in January 1930 the honour of Knighthood from His Majesty the King Emperor.

In the midst of plenty and opulence never for a moment has he forgotten the cause of the poor, the needy and the destitute. His heart flowing with the milk of human kindness ever goes out in sympathy for the suffering humanity and he has always responded to the cries of help from any deserving quarter. He gave away a little less than a lakh of rupees to improve and extend the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling, built an operation theatre in the Benares Ramkrishna Mission Home of Service at

a cost of Rs. 40,000 and contributed magnificent sums to the Calcutta Medical School and other Medical institutions. He is particularly interested in the welfare of the student community and spent about Rs. 100,000 for the construction of a high school at Shibpur, his ancestral place. He believes that the great problem of the country is to provide an opening to the middle class Bhadralok youth to earn their living in a vocation which will help to increase the agricultural and manufacturing wealth of the country. To this end in view he has donated a lakh of rupees that has helped towards the establishment of the Bhutnath Paul Agricultural School at Chinsura. During the last Bihar Earthquake Sir Hari Sankar in response to humanity's call opened relief operations at various centres and himself contributed in coin and kinds no less than Rs. 20,000. His recent donation of Rs. 20,000 towards the establishment of a casualty Ward in the Calcutta Medical College is another eloquent expression of his sentiments for poor sufferers.

The above certainly does not exhaust the list of charities that have been flowing from him in numerous directions and on various matters conducive to public good.

Private life of Sir Hari Sankar is marked with austere simplicity. He religiously shuns luxury and idolent habits that generally characterise the wealthy men of these times. He works the whole day without respite and is often seen poring over his office files till very late at night. Standing well over six feet he still keeps wonderfully fit. He is a man of saintly character and strictly temperate ways and never smokes or drinks. He has always taken a keen interest in athletic exercises and has maintained that interest up to this day. In his youthful days he was a renowned gymnast and his robust physique is an eloquent testimony as much to his pure unsullied ways of living as to his love of systematic physical exercises. He is an ideal father, a loving brother and a devoted husband, and his happy domestic life has helped to give him an amiable temperament and a charming personality. He is only 47 and can look back on an well spent life so far. May Provident spare him for many years to come to continue in his noble life of service and sacrifice much to the benefit of his family, his society and to his country at large.

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## The Problem of India's Defence : ITS FINANCIAL ASPECTS

BY KHAGENDRA N. SEN, M.A., F.R.E.S. (Lond.)

**T**HE Defence Sub-Committee of the Indian Round Table Conference (First Session) wrote in their Report that "with the development of the new political structure in India, the Defence of India must to an increasing extent be the concern of the Indian people and not of the British Government alone". As a matter of fact, there are very few amongst us who know much about army matters and there are many who know nothing about it at all. Since the publication of the report of the Simon Commission, however, a good deal of material has been made available to the general public, and the Government itself has recognized the necessity of enlightening the lay public about the broad facts of the military organization of India so that the concern of the Indian people in matters military might not be based on an imperfect appreciation of the military needs of India and of the nature and equipment of an efficient army required for the purposes of the defence of India. A military college has since been established at Dehra Dun which will produce the officers necessary to Indianize a complete Division of all arms and a Cavalry Brigade—which is the present scheme of Indianization—and will, in fact, at the rate of an output of 60 officers a year, take about 20 years to Indianize two Divisions and two Cavalry Brigades. The Indianization of one Division and a Cavalry Brigade would mean the disappearance of one Battery of Royal House Artillery, two Brigades (eight Batteries) of Royal Field Artillery and one Brigade (four Batteries) of Mountain Artillery.

In this connection the following figures regarding the strength of the Indian army will prove of interest. We shall first give the total present strength of the British personnel (officers and other ranks) in it.

So far as the total strength of the army is concerned, the army can be divided into three broad categories, namely, the Internal Security Troops the purpose of which is to help in the preservation of internal peace and tranquillity; the Covering Troops, which protect India against tribal invasions from across the frontiers; and the Field Army, which stands between India and the danger of external aggression,—the classification being primarily designed for war conditions. The strength of these different categories of the army are as follows:—Internal Security

Troops—70,000; Covering Troops—42,000; and the Field Army—69,000. The total strength is, 1,81,000 of which 2,100 represents the strength of the Air Force, so that excluding the Air Force, the total strength of the Indian Army is 1,79,000. The figures are for 1934.

As regards the *British* personnel, somewhat more detailed tables are given below. The figures are as at April, 1935.

Total Officers with King's Commission	7,279
" other ranks	59,296
Total Officers in Fighting Units or Staffs	4,571
" other ranks in     "         "	54,446
Total Officers in Administrative and Ancillary Services	2,345
" other ranks in same	2,914
Total Officers in the Royal India Navy	98
" other ranks	42
Total Officers in the Royal Air Force	265
" other ranks in     "         "	1,894

Or, if we take the Units :-

	No.	Strength
British Cavalry Regiments	5 (approx.)	3,000
" Infantry Battalions	45	40,500
" Batteries of Artillery	78	10,000
" Signal Engineers (Sappers and Miners), Tank Corps and Staffs	(approx.)	4,000
" Officers in Cavaliaries and Infantries of the Indian Army		1,700

The first set of figures is important from the point of view of the different purposes to which the army in its different categories is put. The significance of these purposes, so far as the financial burden of the army is concerned, will be discussed presently.

The second set of figures which refers exclusively to the British personnel in the army is also significant from the point of view of the financial burden so far as the defence of India is made to depend on the maintenance of large numbers of British forces. Since it is well known that the British soldier costs at least three times as much as the Indian, this aspect of the problem also must be considered. So far, however, as the officers are concerned, officers holding the King's Commission, whether British or Indian, receive the same pay, rank for rank. Also, for army purposes, an Indian Officer holding the King's Commission is considered as a British Officer, so that a mere substitution of the British officers, will not, whatever be its national significance, be of much financial significance, unless the scale of the pay and allowances of the Indian officers were lowered, or a different and more economical organization of the army were sanctioned.

But before we pursue these points further, let us pause a while and examine first the general features of the defence budget.

The first feature that at once attracts our attention is the high absolute figure of the defence budget. The Budget estimate for the year 1935-36 is Rs. 44.91 crores which compared to the total expenditure of the Government of India comes up to more than 50 per cent of the budget. But our criticism of the huge figure of the cost of India's defence must be tempered by the following considerations. In the first place, the proportion which a particular item of expenditure constitutes in the total budget of a country will depend upon the nature and variety of the functions which that Government deem it essential to discharge. For example, if the function of a Federal Government is limited only to defence and security, expenditure on these will be 100 per cent of the total budget. In India, most of the activities, excepting a few--particularly nation-building activities--belong to the domain of the Provincial administrations. Hence the relative preponderance of the military budget in the finances of the Central Government. A more appropriate comparison will be if we took Central and Provincial Budgets together. Here we find that the military expenditure comes up to more than 25 per cent and this, in all conscience, particularly in a poor country like India, is an indefensibly high figure. Against this it may be answered that the military expenditure in a country is usually inelastic, depending on the size of the country and the problems of security that it will have to solve. The high percentage of this particular item of expenditure in India is, it may be argued, due to the fact that the other items of expenditure are comparatively small, so that (it may be suggested) what we should aim at is not to reduce the military expenditure but to increase other expenditures if we are to reduce the proportion that military expenditure at present bears to the total expenditure.

This line of argument would leave the layman rather helpless for, after all, the fighting strength of a country is not to be decided by him but by experts. Fortunately, the position of the layman so far as the problem in India is concerned is not so weak as it appears to be. Those who have studied the problem and have acquired authority to speak on it have repeatedly held that the military expenditure in India can be reduced by a considerable amount without sacrificing the efficiency of the fighting units or the ancillary organizations. The history of army expenditure itself shows that the budget has, in fact, been considerably reduced since the War. For example, the pre-War figure of army expenditure in India was about Rs. 29 crores. In 1922-23, it stood at Rs. 68 crores, or 63 crores if we exclude Rs. 5 crores due to operations in Waziristan. In 1923-24, the figure jumped down to Rs. 55 crores, and, in the following year, it rose to Rs. 56 crores. The figures given below show the variations in the budget since 1930-31 :—

**(India's Defence Budget)**

<b>1930-31</b>	<b>Rs. 54.20 crores</b>
<b>1931-32</b>	<b>Rs. 51.90 crores</b>
<b>1932-33</b>	<b>Rs. 46.65 crores</b>
<b>1933-34</b>	<b>Rs. 46.12 crores</b>

1934-35	Rs. 44.30 crores (a)
1935-36	Rs. 44.91 crores (a) (b)

(a) Excluding Rs. 2 crores contributed by Great Britain following the award of the Capitation Tribunal

(b) Includes Rs. 53 lakhs for the restoration of pay cuts.

It will thus be seen that during the last 12 years, there has been a reduction in the military expenditure by about 28 per cent, and it is in any case considerably less than the figure of Rs. 50 crores recommended by the Inchcape Committee as the ultimate "rock bottom figure". But the expenditure is still substantially higher than the pre-War figure of Rs. 29 crores ; and while we think of it, one point stands out as an irrefutable argument in favour of the fact that India is bearing a disproportionate burden of military expenditure. Due to the War, the armaments expenditure of Great Britain increased between 1913 and 1928 by 48.9 per cent and that of the Dominions by 33 per cent while that of India increased by 66 per cent.\* Even when the subsequent reduction in the military expenditure of India referred to above is taken into account, the percentage of increase compared to 1913 still remains very high—about 55 per cent. The real burden of the increase would become particularly evident if we considered the catastrophic fall in the prices that has taken place during the last 5 years.

It will, of course, be pointed out that the per capita expenditure on the army in India is only 2s. 7d. or including the India States, 3s. 4d. as against £ 8 in Great Britain. When related to the national incomes of the countries concerned †, namely, £ 100 per head in Great Britain and Rs. 107 per head in India, the incidence of military expenditure comes to only 2½ per cent of the per capita income in Great Britain and only 2 per cent of the per capita income in India. These calculations are made by Sir Walter Layton ; but he at the same time takes care to point out that whereas in Great Britain, the expenditure on education per head is £ 2-15s, the corresponding figure in India is only 9d. The total expenditure on education in all the Provinces taken together was only about Rs. 13 crores in 1929-30 and since then there has been little improvement. The position in regard to other national services is exactly similar, so that both absolutely and relatively, India's military expenditure is very high.

I have seen in an official pamphlet a remark that the proportion of military expenditure to total expenditure in India is lower today than it was in 1913 or 1914. During this period, it is pointed out, the percentage has fallen from 34 in 1914 to 26 in 1934 § on the basis of the net expenditures

\* See Report of the Indian Statutory Commission, Vol. II, Pp. 215-218. Since then the British expenditure has gone up and it is today 100 p. c. more than what it was in 1913.

† Ibid, Part VIII, Vol. II.

§ See "Some Facts and Figures about India Defence", p 21. The present strength of the army is also less than that of 1914.

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of the Central and Provincial Governments taken together. The following is the method of calculation :—

	1914	1933-34
Net Revenues	Rs. 87 crores	Rs. 174 crores
Expenditure on Defence	" 29 "	" 44 } "
Civil Expenditure	" 58 "	" 129 } "

*Variations (1914-1933).*

Net revenues increased	100 per cent
Expenditure on Defence increased	53 per cent
Civil Expenditure increased	123 per cent

*Proportion of expenditure to net revenues*

	1914	1933-34
Expenditure on Defence	34 per cent	26 per cent
Civil Expenditure	66 per cent	74 per cent

Now, what do these figures suggest? Since 1914, the strength of the army in India has been reduced by 25 per cent, but we find that expenditure has gone up by 53 per cent. So far as the fall in the ratio of the defence expenditure to the net revenues is concerned, bearing in mind the reduction in the strength of the army, the fall is more apparent than real, because the troops now cost more than they used to in 1914. Even if we regard the position as better than in 1914, we are still far from what we might consider as the "Optimum" budget of India. For example, the figures do not yet prove that the expenditure *per capita* on Defence bears the same relation to the expenditure *per capita* on such heads, for example, as education, health, sanitation etc., as it bears in other countries to similar heads of expenditure. That was indeed the point in Sir Walter Layton's comparison referred to in the preceding paragraph.

A perfect equation of the Indian financial system or standard of expenditure with that prevalent in the progressive countries of the West cannot, of course, be looked for in the present circumstances. Our own poverty would be the most concrete argument against such an attempt. The total net expenditure of the Government, Central and Provincial, in this country comes up to Rs. 6-8 *per capita* in British India, about a sixth of what Britain spends on education alone. So even if we spent the whole of Rs. 175 crores on education alone, Britain would still be spending six times as much. Naturally, a real improvement in the economic situation of India is to be looked for only in an increase in the national income of our country, not in any reduction of the military budget that we can imagine. In the meantime, the Government of India have got to recognize that such heads of expenditure as would help to increase the national income directly or indirectly should have a prior claim on the Finance Department than the needs of the Army Department. This would, no doubt, seem heresy to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and so I should immediately qualify my statement by saying that nothing should be done as would impair the

efficiency of the Army as a fighting proposition and of this the Army Department should naturally be the sole judge. But subject to this qualification it can be stated, as I shall prove presently, that even in the present Army Budget of Rs. 45 crores, there is room for economy, or even a possibility of going back to the pre-War budget figure. In fact, no *a priori* sanctity attaches to any particular budget figure ; we have seen the Defence expenditure reach the figure of 29 crores ; shoot up to 68 crores ; drop down again to 45 crores. The Department will have as little justification for saying that they cannot reduce the figure of Rs. 45 crores to any smaller level than they would have had for regarding the figure of Rs. 68 crores in 1922-23 as sacrosanct. And they have themselves admitted that "the ordeal of retrenchment has so far been survived without serious damage to the efficiency of the defence forces." \*

The main point, however, is to approach the problem from an unbiased angle. Let us accept the proposition of the Army Department that the maximum retrenchment has been achieved in the existing conditions. A good deal is, of course, assumed in the phrase "existing conditions." The two important assumptions that are implied in this phrase are, first, that the existing strength of the army cannot be maintained without a budget stabilised between Rs. 50 to Rs. 55 crores nor would it be possible, secondly, to maintain the present balance between the fighting services and the administration and ancillary services at a lower figure than at least the present expenditure. Want of knowledge and experience often make the ignorant hyper-critical. It is, for instance, little known to many who otherwise criticise the army budget that the present strength of the army is less than what it was in 1914, though the expenditure is now about 53 per cent higher compared to the pre-War year. There has been a reduction of over 20,000 British Officers and fighting troops on the Indian establishment since 1914 ; and there has been a large reduction in other ranks also as the following figures will show :

<i>Units</i>	<i>1914</i>	<i>1934</i>
Cavalry Regiment	48	26
Infantry Battalions	171	143 (Active)
Artillery Batteries of all kinds	102	78½
Engineer Companies or Troops	23	29
Signal Units	5	13
Pioneer Battalions	12	Nil
Armoured Cars and light		
Tank Companies	Nil	8
Total Fighting Strength	2,38,000	1,79,000

Thus not only has there been a reduction of 20,000 British Officers and fighting troops but there has been a reduction of 59,000 in the total

\* See "Some Facts and Figures about Indian Defence", p. 38.

**fighting strength of the army.** The question then may naturally arise as to how is it that in spite of this heavy reduction of about 25 per cent in the strength of the army, the expenditure has gone up by about 53 per cent. The reason is that the cost per unit of the fighting troops as well as that of administrative and ancillary services has gone up phenomenally since the War. Thus during the 20 years 1914-1934, the cost of the fighting services has gone up by 50 p.c., that of stores by 20 per cent and that of the administrative and ancillary services by more than 100 p.c. This increase has been due to the provision for better equipment of the army to keep pace with modern technique and methods of warfare, in the shape of better training, better staffs, better arms and munitions and the institution of such services as the Signal Units and mechanized transport.

Then there is another aspect of the question. The whole of the expenditure, for instance, of Rs. 44.91 crores and 1935-36, does not represent the real cost of the army. For the purpose of calculating the real cost of the army we must exclude from the above figure the following items :

Air and naval defence	Rs. 252 crores
Cost of pensions including War pensions etc.	" 8.00 "
Return to the exchequer in the form of income-tax,	
customs duty and other taxes	" '95 "
Railway Transport charges	" 100 "
Post and Telegraphs	" '15 "
Printing and Stationery	" '13 "
Territorial Force	" '22 "
Cost of certain military schools	" '11 "
<hr/>	
Total Rs.	13.08

Substracting this sum from the total army budget, we are left with the figure of Rs. 32 crores as the present real cost of the army. Of this again, the fighting portion of the army costs only Rs. 22 crores.

Here we come face to face with a dilemma. If we are to retrench, we will have to fix our attention on this sum of Rs. 32 crores. Of this Rs. 10 crores represent approximately the cost of the administrative and ancillary services. The Army Department state that no further retrenchment is possible, without impairing the essential balance between the fighting troops and the ancillary services. So far as the strength of the army is concerned, here also we must be guided by the views of the army authorities, and their view certainly is that the present strength of the army cannot be reduced any further. What will a lay critic—even the Finance Department—do in the face of such weighty expression of views ?

The answer is clear. Even if we accept the views of the military authorities either in respect of the military services or of the fighting strength of the army, there are still three ways open to us by which we can bring about a substantial economy in the army expenditure.

In the first place, since the defence of India is partly an Imperial concern, we can legitimately ask Great Britain to bear a share of its cost. Secondly, the Indianization of the army would result in a substantial saving. Thirdly, we can replace at least the Internal Security troops by cheaper fighting units.

So far as the purpose for which the army in India is maintained is concerned, there is no doubt that the purpose of the army is to a great extent Imperial. It is now a commonplace formula that the purpose of the army in India is "the defence of India against external aggression and the maintenance of internal peace and tranquillity". So far as the defence of India against external aggression is concerned, the view has been repeatedly expressed that "the protection of the frontiers of India, at any rate for a long time to come, should not be regarded as a function of the Indian Government in relation to an Indian legislature but as a matter of supreme concern to the whole Empire which can only be effectively organized and controlled by an Imperial agency". This was the observation made by the Simon Commission and we need not cite other authorities in support of what is now a well recognized fact. The Field Army with a strength of 69,000 is clearly and exclusively meant for the defence of the Empire in the East; for as the official publication ("Some Facts and Figures about Indian Defence" issued under the authority of the Army Secretary) makes no secret, "the focus of world unrest has shifted eastwards, and even further eastwards, since the Great War and the Army in India at present occupies the front line of resistance to any threat to the Empire as a whole". It is, however, India which is footing the entire Bill and that in part explains the huge cost of the army. The question is simple: if India goes, does the Empire remain? It would be misleading to point to the small incidence of the cost *per capita*; for the population of India is essentially peace-loving. The emphasis that is, is greater on the necessity for defending the country and the Empire against external aggression than on the maintenance of internal peace and tranquillity. It is for this reason that 25 p. c. of the expenditure, Central and Provincial, in this country is devoted to Defence as against 2.4 per cent in Australia, 2.9 per cent in Canada, 7.2 per cent in the Irish Free State, 39 per cent in New Zealand, and 2.4 per cent in South Africa\*. Then, again, on the admission of the Simon Commission, the defence of the Indian frontier is a matter of "supreme concern to the whole Empire", and it stands to reason that a large part of the expenditure on Covering Troops with a strength of 42,000 should be debited to Imperial revenues. The average cost of the frontier defence of India has been during the years 1895-1919 in the neighbourhood of Rs. 50 lakhs a year. During 1919-1924, it shot up to Rs. 11 crores a year on account of the Third Afghan War and the occupation of Waziristan, and since then, only Rs. 11½ lakhs a year. In view of these figures, is it necessary to maintain all the year

\* League of Nations Armaments Year Book, quoted by the Simon Commission on p 93, Vol. I of this Report.

round a heavy force for frontier operations only? Would it, in fact, be incorrect to assume that a substantial part of the so-called Covering Troops is meant for Imperial Defence? The Third Afghan War, for instance, could not be regarded in the nature of a local skirmish, as a normal incident of the Wardenship of the Marches. So far as local skirmishes go, experience for the last forty years shows that a considerable part of the Covering Troops has completely remained inactive.

As regards the question of maintaining such a large army of a strength of 70,000 for the preservation of internal peace and security, we might refer to the opinion of the Indian Central Committee sitting with the Simon Commission that the problem of suppressing rebellions and local disorders has been greatly simplified by the advent of the aeroplane and armoured cars. Besides, the question should be seriously investigated if it is not possible to replace the Internal Security Troops by a cheaper form of organization, even though it be a little less efficient, as, for instance, the Dominions have done, or by raising local militias to supplement the work of the armed police as well as the ordinary police. Secondly, by replacing British soldiers by Indian soldiers, a substantial reduction in cost may be brought about.

A few words may be said on the question of cost. So far as the fighting units are concerned, the total cost comes to Rs. 22 crores of which Rs. 13 crores represent the cost of the British Units. The cost of a British soldier is Rs. 850 a year including pay and allowances while that of the Indian Sepoy is only Rs. 285 or nearly a third of that of a British soldier. The differences in the case of the Officers are not so marked. Officers holding the King's Commission get the same pay whatever be the nationality, though Officers trained at the Indian Military Academy would get lower rates of pay. The full effects of this reduction are yet to be experienced before any calculation can be made. It has, however, been estimated that if the entire British personnel could be replaced by Indian personnel not only in the British units but also in the Indian units, the savings would amount to Rs. 9 crores a year. This, together with other incidental savings and economy in other directions—for example, the abolition of the Indian Medical Service which is an entirely superfluous and excessively costly organization as it stands—would bring up the savings to more than Rs. 10 crores. The cessation of the War pensions will sooner or later relieve the Budget of three to four crores of rupees every year. Of course it would not be possible to replace the entire British personnel of the army by Indian officers and other ranks, either immediately, or even remotely, if the Imperial aspect is kept in view. If half the personnel is Indianized, the savings would amount to at least Rs. 4 crores. This estimate is based upon the following figures. According to the current Defence Estimates, the cost of a Indian Cavalry Regiment is about Rs. 7.07 lakhs, and that of an Infantry battalion Rs. 6.5 lakhs. The five British Cavalry Regiments cost Rs. 77.55 lakhs while the same number of Indian Cavalry Regiments cost Rs. 35.35 lakhs. If, therefore, the British Regiments are completely

replaced by Indian Regiments, the savings would be Rs. 42.20 lakhs. Again, the 45 British Infantry Battalions cost about Rs. 7.48 crores while the same number of Indian Infantry Battalions would cost about Rs. 2.94 crores. The complete substitution of British Battalions by Indian Battalions would, therefore, result in a saving of Rs. 4.54 crores. The total savings due to the replacement of British Cavalry Regiments as well as Infantry Battalions would, therefore, be Rs. 8½ crores. If corresponding savings could be similarly secured in other Units of the army, the total savings would amount to Rs. 9 crores. Half of this is Rs. 4½ crores.

Now, the proposals that we have already made would work out something like this. Let the Internal Security Troops be reduced to four Indian Cavalry Regiments, four British Infantry Battalions and twelve Indian Infantry Battalions ; so far as the Field Army is concerned, let us, instead of demanding that its entire cost should devolve on the Imperial exchequer, agree, as a practical proposition, to bear at least half its cost ; and also, instead of asking Great Britain to bear a share of the cost of the Covering Troops, let us agree that India should bear the whole cost of the troops as they are, perhaps, releasing a part of it for internal security purposes. In other words, let the future strength of the Indian army in so far as its cost will fall on the Indian revenues be composed as follows :—

Cavalry Regiments	17 (all Indian)
Infantry Battalions	82 (all Indian)
Artillery Batteries	42
Engineer Companies	22
Armoured Car Companies	2
R. A. F. Squadrons	4

From calculations made, it would appear that the total savings would come up to about Rs. 12½ crores. There would be a saving of another Rs. 5 crores in the Administrative and other Services (excluding the savings due to the abolition of the Indian Medical Service). In fact, our proposals would mean a total savings of Rs. 18 crores which, if effected, would bring down the Army Budget to Rs. 27 crores, and with the cessation of the War pensions, the Budget would be easily brought down to Rs. 25 crores without any loss whatever in the fighting efficiency of the army. In a total Budget of Rs. 175 crores, Central and Provincial, this would represent about 14.3 per cent of the total revenues. This, then, is the way out.

To ask Great Britain to bear, in stead of half of the cost of the Field Army, as proposed above, the whole of it will neither be fantastic nor unprecedented. In this connection, we cannot do better than close our arguments by referring to a remarkable speech delivered by Sir Sivaswamy Iyer in the Legislative Assembly on February 18, 1924. Sir Sivaswamy is one of the few non-official "experts" in this country who can speak with considerable authority on the army question. Says he :

"But with regard to the problem of the army, I have only to observe

this, that so far as my reading of colonial history goes, none of the colonies was in a position to assume its defence at the time when a self-governing status was granted to it. For many years, the colonies were not even able to pay for their defence. It was the Home Government that had to contribute towards the military expenditure of the colonies. We on the other hand, have from the beginning paid for our army. We have not merely paid for our army but we have raised our troops. We have raised and maintained our Indian troops and we have also maintained the British troops and paid for them. We have gone further than the colonies have done in the matter of undertaking our defence. No doubt Sir Malcolm Hailey is right in saying that full dominion self-government implies the capacity to undertake the defence, not merely by paying for it but also by undertaking its officering and administration. But that was not a condition which was insisted upon in the case of any of the colonies. So far as defence against internal disturbances was concerned, that no doubt was a condition which was pointed out to the colonies as essential some years after they were granted their self-governing status. But so far as defence against external aggression was concerned, I am not aware that the duty has been laid upon them even now. As regards naval defence, the obligation has not been laid upon them."

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## Landlords in New India

BY SURJA PRASANNA BAJPAI CHOWDHURY,  
*Zemindar, Parerhat, Faridpur.*

THE new Government of India Bill has received the assent of His Majesty the King, and the constitution under it will in all probability be ushered into existence before a year will have run out hence. But under what sort of auspices is it going to be inaugurated ? All shades of opinion in the country have denounced it at the conclusion of each successive stage in its evolution. The Congress party—the best organised party in the country—has rejected it by a resolution in the Assembly with the co-operation of other parties in it. No class or community could find its provisions calculated for promoting its best interests ; so none is going to accept it with good grace.

The landholders, obviously, are no exception to this rule. Their repeated requests for more adequate representation in the forum of the country's legislatures have not been complied with—their demands for more effective safeguards have fallen flat on the constitution-makers. They were, so to speak, on the tiptoe of expectation of the proper reward for their traditional loyalty to the person and throne of their Imperial Majesties and for the co-operation they rendered in the consolidation of the British rule and the maintenance of law and order in the countryside. Wherfore, they now ask themselves, have they long borne ungrudgingly heavy financial burdens to give relief to the Public Exchequer ? Why did they liberally execute works of public utility throughout the length and breadth of the country and thus relieve the Government of what might properly be regarded as its duty, if there be no recognition of the same by the latter ? Why did the Government fail at this psychological hour to give more concrete proofs of its recognition of their manifold services to the country ? Really, the landholders stand disillusioned today.

But should they brood over the failure of their expectations and maintain a sullen aloofness from the constitution which, notwithstanding all its defects, will certainly be worked ?

There should be no difficulty in deciding upon the course of action that they should now adopt. They should, like other classes and communities in the country, proceed to make the best of a bad job. Through combination and co-ordination of efforts, they should make their voices felt in the affairs of the country. They should face the polls with determination and be ready to measure their strength with the strongest forces, individual or combined, against them. Otherwise they

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the mean number of days to reach the first case in each country is plotted in Figure 1. The data are ordered by the date of the first case.

*Part I: The Response of the Religious Community to the Decline of Religion and Secularism* (Edinburgh, 1990), pp. 11–12.

The Department of Mathematics at The University of Michigan has announced a new mathematics graduate program in Financial Mathematics.

<sup>10</sup> The following section is based on the author's interview with Dr. John C. H. Lee, former Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and on his article "The Chinese Government's Policy towards Hong Kong after 1997" (in Chinese), published in *China Quarterly*, No. 166, June 1996.

The following subject is a composite of the information given in *Material Object*:

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will have to recede more and more to the background, leaving the lists in favour of those who may, as likely as not, be tempted to use the laws and institutions of the country against them. They must prepare a cogent and convincing case for themselves, and let exemplary action speak for them more than verbal propaganda. They must give a decent fight to extreme and irresponsible democratic opinion and embody in themselves all that is best of aristocracy and democracy. A new India is fast taking shape ; they must have a glorious part to play in its making.

The landlords are now a much-maligned and discredited lot. They have been shorn of their former powers of civic, revenue or police administration, of many a function related to the welfare of the tenants. To crown all, an unprecedented and protracted economic depression, by bringing about a catastrophic fall in the price of agricultural produce, has laid them incredibly low. In a sense their condition is much graver than that of the ryots as in these years when the rents realised from their tenants are much less than full (sometimes they drop down to one-half or even less) they have to meet fully their commitments to Government in time (the concessions sometimes granted in this respect with regard to the whole or a part of the dues hardly bring any material relief to them) or their zamindaries are put up to auction sale. They have perforce to advance revenue and cess and depend for reimbursement of the latter and rent collection on chances spread over the three succeeding years. It is these facts which have shattered the finances of landlords almost beyond recovery.

In this state of things the landlords are naturally filled with misgivings as to the chances of improving, nay maintaining whatever position they now occupy in the body politic. Can they, situated as they now are, render any real benefit to their community by participating in the working of the new constitution ? They do not carry favour with the Congress and will not, unless they radically change their ways. A section—and an important one—of the same organisation would have them completely efface themselves in the interest of a millennium. A millennium indeed with the landlords out of the picture—the only community which represent caution and circumspection, ordered and evolutionary progress in every branch of Indian life—which supply the much-needed leaven of healthy conservatism to all national institutions and save them from sudden and total crash !

It is now apparent that the landlords will have to work out their own salvation. They have to win the good will and support of their tenants and people in general or go to the wall. Representatives of other communities, sections or parties in the country would vastly outnumber them in Central and Provincial legislatures and the opinion that the former would entertain about them would be very material as to their future, as the safeguards provided for them in the new constitution are none of them likely to prove really effective.

Bengal zemindars are naturally apprehensive regarding the future of the Permanent Settlement. A communally-minded legislature may seek to undo it in a frenzy of communal-cum-democratic enthusiasm. The relative safeguard in the constitution, will on the one hand, only stimulate the wreckers to put their powers to the test over and over again till they succeed and, on the other, drive the landholding community to the perpetual necessity of cultivating the good graces of His Majesty's Government at Home and in India in addition to that of humouring the popular representatives here for the continuance of their privileges and benefits under the Regulation.

Sir John Anderson, than whom a more intelligent, sagacious and sympathetic administrator has not been placed at the helm of affairs in Bengal, referred in his reply to an address recently presented to him by the landholders of the Hugly district, to the question of the much-feared encroachment on the Permanent Settlement. He said :

"You refer to the sanctity of the Permanent Settlement under Regulation I of 1793 and urge that the new constitution should embody adequate safeguards for its continuance and preservation. Though the draft Instruments of Instructions to Government contain safeguards against legislation affecting the character of the Permanent Settlement, these have not yet been approved by Parliament and it would not be proper for me to no more than merely mention them at this stage. I can assure you, however, that the importance which you attach to this matter is fully realised".

It thus appears that we must now finally centre our hopes in the Governor's Instrument of Instructions. And we have His Excellency's assurance that the importance of the matter is realised by the Parliament which is considering the draft of the Instrument. We cannot believe that the Parliament's vision will be blurred or judgment warped for all time in spite of its preoccupation with urgent Home affairs. We believe that it will not fail to see that the Permanent Settlement has been one great cause not only of the prosperity and well-being of the landlords and tenants in Bengal but of the security of the Provincial finances, whose importance is best appreciated now as at the time of its inception ; that its impairment would lead to grave and disastrous consequences and upheavals in the social, economic and political life of the province. We hope it will realise all the implications of the question and proceed to make a last attempt, within the scope of the constitution already enacted, to safeguard a Regulation which has done incalculable good to the country, against any attempt at impairment in future. We would entreat our enlightened and sympathetic Governor and Governor-General, who thoroughly understand our people and its problems, to use their best offices with the Parliament in bringing about the desired consummation in this respect.



# Rural Uplift

BY S. L. NARASIAH.

## ECONOMIC VALUE OF CATTLE (*Continued*)

### BREEDING ANIMALS

The deficiency of suitable breeding bulls and buffaloes has adversely affected the quality of the stock. If good milking cows and buffaloes are to be produced and efficient draught animals secured, the want is to be made up. Due to the custom of dedication of bulls to some god or goddess or in the name of a deceased person at the time of *Sradha* there were enough of good stud-bulls in days gone by. But in the light of the rulings of the Indian High Courts it is not an offence to take or deal with them as one likes. It does not come within the purview of the penal law of the land, and the person incurs no criminal liability. The animals are either sold to be decorated for street shows, or put to scavenging carts or slaughtered by the butcher. It is time for the legislature to safeguard public welfare by a legal enactment. This will encourage generous souls to dedicate bulls as of old, and those who maintain good bulls for propagating a better type of cattle may be given grants as in Ireland and some other European countries.

### CATTLE INSURANCE

To a large extent cattle constitute the wealth of our land. Expressions like 'Pasu Dhanam' (cattle wealth) connote the importance of cattle. So it is well to provide against harm to this kind of wealth as it is in the case of any other. In the West there is scarcely a thing that man values which is uninsured. In India cattle insurance has made little headway.

### PROTECTION

There is a steady decline in the number of good cows in our country. The best milkers find their way into towns, and when they become dry, they are sold to the butcher. Large numbers, which have not calved even thrice, and whose milking capacity has not declined are slaughtered in our towns. Calves, and cow-calves capable of bearing form no exception. The life of a cow or a she-buffalo is more valuable than that of a male animal. Killing a bull is taking one life, But killing a cow or a she-buffalo is killing an infinite number of future progeny. This question is peculiar to this unfortunate land. Nowhere does it occur. In Europe and America cattle are reared for two distinct purposes : one for food, the

other for milk. Bull-calves are slaughtered, but none thinks of killing a dairy-cow. Even here the silly shepherd shows more prudence in the matter of sale. He parts with the male goat or sheep, keeping the best for purposes of breeding, but never the ewe or the she-goat unless it is past the age of breeding or infected with disease or he is otherwise forced to relieve a distress. But no such discrimination is made in respect of the most useful of domestic animals the cow and the she-buffalo.

To arrest decline the first thing to do is to prohibit totally within Municipal limits the slaughter of useful animals, and to increase the fees with regard to the slaughter of the rest. An intelligent electorate can make its power felt by concerted action if the municipal body is either indifferent or lukewarm in the matter.

Total prohibition is not easy to secure. Beef is now required for the European army and the civilian populations. If beef is imported from abroad and specific beef-raising industries are started so that no useful animal may be slaughtered, this can easily be checked. Lastly, the levy of duty on the export of hides and skins acts as a deterrent on the reckless export for foreign markets. The export of fine breed is to be prevented by legislative action or checked by heavy export duties. In the production of mutton lamb wool is a bye-product. Of the two types of sheep the large bodies with scarcely a vestige of fleece and the small bodies that have fleece, the land is deficient in the latter. If wool industry is to develop in our midst, it is imperative that the wool-yielding type is to be introduced from abroad, and indigenous animals crossed by wild ones as in Germany.

#### PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

Nothing is so much talked of, but so woefully neglected as the care of cattle. People often invoke religion and *Swadharma* in the cause of the cow, and thereby bring more sorrow and suffering upon their poor heads, and those of their neighbours than real relief to the animal. For the protection of the cow many societies have sprung up all over the land. There is in them more of religious bigotry and narrow intolerance. Better far would it have been if the principle is broad-based and all-embracing, if the energy employed for the protection of the cow is directed towards improving the condition of the cow and other useful animals. The method of slaughter is out of date, and much of the cruelty can be avoided as the Animal and Anti-vivisection Society in England has done under the leadership of the Dutchess of Mamilton. Unspeakable pain is often inflicted upon the draught oxen. Day in and day out the same pair is used most cruelly and with little rest. Most abominable of all is the treatment meted out to the calf. Save the agriculturist, and a few others here and there, the rest, who either want milk for direct use or for commercial gain, do not like that the calf should share its mother's milk with them. So calves are starved, and do not get the milk they need. In towns where milch animals are kept for economic gain, the young calf is unco-

nomic and burdensome. It is sold away or starved to death and thrown into dust bin. But if the cow is sensitive, the calf cannot altogether be dispensed with, and so a dummy calf takes the place of the original to deceive the poor animal. But this brings in a natural decrease in the number of animals of high quality. The effects are no better even in the case of slaves that stand the stress and strain of starvation as its tends to diminish vitality of the future stock.

From a purely economic point of view the deterioration and loss of cattle tell against the prosperity of agriculture, in which every son of the soil, be he a Hindu, a Christian or a Mohammedan, shares to an extent. That apart, the caste Hindu values the cattle for the milk they yield. The Christian makes use of their milk and meat. In addition to these the Mohammedan makes a profit out of the export trade in hides and skins, which is mostly in his hands. So re-arranging the names in the order of importance and duties cast to improve the stock, the Moslem tops the list, the Christian comes next, and the Hindu last. So all should join hands to improve in friendly co-operation what is of such vital importance to the nation and the individual from an economic standpoint.

The cow, in short, feeds the child, the patient and the adult. She furnishes draught animals to the farmer, and with her valuable manure fertilizes the soil and increases the output. In her infinite capacity for varied usefulness she is second to none. The word 'cow', of course, is not used here in its narrow sense. It stands for the sub-human world,—the buffalo, the sheep, the goat and others.

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## Rabindranath's Modern Music : its Special Features

BY NARENDRA K. DASGUPTA, M.A., B.L.

It is idle to presume that the public in the two hemispheres who have even a nodding acquaintance with the life and works of the great Bard of Santiniketan are unaware of his connection with or contributions to his country's music. But it may not be half so well known—especially among his foreign readers and admirers—that his contributions to music constitute a class by themselves and a title to fame quite distinct from, but hardly inferior to his title as a master of poetic composition. It will not be untrue to say that in his own province and country his fame as an artist in golden numbers was almost conterminous with his fame as an author of exquisitely fine musical pieces alike from the point of view of the noble sentiments that they expressed and the soft and soul-thrilling airs to which they were set. For more than half a century, his songs have enthralled the hearts of millions in Bengal. They have found favour in unexpected quarters—among orthodox sections who never took kindly to the style and contents of his writings or set high value on them. Indeed in Bengal and among Bengalis proper he would certainly be very bold who could unhesitatingly assert that the poet's popularity rests more on his literary works than on his songs. It should also be borne in mind that a large part of his lyrics is specifically meant to be sung and has actually been sung by him with appropriate notes and *talas* (musical time).

The purpose of the present article is not an analysis or appraisal of the ideas contained in the words constituting the poet's musical pieces or his philosophy, religious or non-religious, of which they are the vehicle : but to study the special features of his music *qua* music in relation to classical (Hindustani) music and to estimate his contributions to the music of his province. The object, in other words, is simply to indicate and develop the proper line of criticism about the poet's music, much of which sounds unfamiliar to ears attuned to the classical mode of singing.

It should be stated here that his earlier musical pieces, most of which were love-lyrics or dealt with devotional or patriotic themes, present little departure from the classics in regard to both tune and time measure ; and it could not be otherwise as a number of these were composed in imitation of well-known classical pieces, the poet evidently engaging himself in finding, in his own inimitable style, Bengali words for Hindustani,

and as for a host of others, the wording were his and the tune and *tala*, as often as not, the work of others versed in classical music. Such being the case, the older pieces will fail to reveal the poet's special contribution to music and hence must be left out of the scope of the present discussion. I shall, therefore, confine myself to his modern music which may roughly be dated from the publication of his *Gitanjali* of world fame, and elucidate my points with quotations from his speeches and writings as often as possible.

Rabindranath is an artist—a creative artist of very high order, and music is admittedly an art. Art, according to him, is the response of the creative human soul to the call of the Beautiful and the Good. Its function is to wake up the touch of the Infinite within the bounds of the finite, to give form and shape to formless and shapeless ideas. 'The truth of art is not in substance or logic but in expression.... The artist imparts an appearance of substance to the unsubstantial.... It has the magic wand which gives undying reality to all things it touches, relates them to the personal being in us'. On the relation of music to Art the poet says : "Music occupies in Art a position analogous to what mathematics does in Science : both deal with abstract relations \* \* \* \* The creations of Art are nothing but the idealistic expression of whatever blossomed in our life into the True and the Beautiful, and the pure essence of such expression in sound is music. The vibrational outburst of music is free and unfettered ; neither considerations of thought nor those of concrete realities can bind it. It takes us, as it were, into the very heart of things ; it thrills us with joy that is at the root of all creation. A few centuries ago there came a day in Bengal when the drama of Divine love that is being perpetually enacted in the human soul found a living embodiment, scattering all around the superabundant joy of Divine Realisation. An emotional eddy churned the soul of a whole nation ; and that is what gave birth to the *Kirtan* songs of Bengal". †

Our ancient *Ragas* and *Ragini*s were conceived and framed as so many vehicles of cardinal sentiments which move and fill our being. Each *Raga* or *Ragini* had its own arrangement of notes having a peculiar *Murti* or idea-form and calculated to express one or other of the whole gamut of human feelings—the placid, the heroic, the pathetic etc. The modes were also conceived as being in keeping with particular seasons of the year or hours of the day and classified accordingly. Properly executed each *Raga* or *Ragini* would show an wonderful aptitude in conjuring up its peculiar idea-form before the vision of the performer and the audience and producing in them the peculiar feeling or feelings to which it was devoted. Unfortunately for want of capable artistes, classical Hindu music has long ceased to be able to substantiate all its claims, although it retains, even in these degenerate days, a considerable part of its former powers. Our Hindustani music in the hands of its able expo-

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† Translated from the poet's address on "The Meaning of Art" delivered at the Dacca University, as reported in the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*.

nents shows to what majestic beauty of sound the science of co-ordinated notes can rise irrespective of the nature and quality of the word vehicle. Its tune-appeal rises superior to word-appeal. This effect it achieves with the free employment of *tanas* and *alapas* (extension and modulation of tune). Within the limits of certain well-tested rules of technique, it invests the artistes with complete freedom of execution. For this great glory of Indian achievement Rabindranath had ever the highest admiration and regard, and expressed the same quite unreservedly. "High class Hindustani music moves me deeply" says the poet. He appreciates its greatness and sublimity and supreme liberality in dispensing freedom to the artistes to create a thousand ever-changing beauties with tune and tune only, but complains at the same time of the grievous humiliations and distortions to which it is being daily subjected by pseudo-artistes.

Bengali songs have certain distinct and special features which entitle them to be placed in a different category. They cannot, according to the poet, be classed strictly with Hindustani songs which are characterised by a free and liberal use of *tanas* and *alapas*. The specialty of Bengali music, says he, is best understood from a consideration of *Kirtan* and *Baul* songs. 'The joy that we derive from *Kirtan* is certainly not the joy of pure music alone, but the joys of music and poetry blended into one harmonious whole. The tune here is certainly not unimportant, but the principal appeal is the appeal of the ideas running through the verse : the tune is simply its helpmate. A little reflection on what constitutes *Ankhar* or the soul of *Kirtan* helps a clearer understanding of this point. Is this not mere *tana* or extension of word-sense while what charms us in Hindustani music is the *tana* or extension of tune? ..... The *Padabali* songs of Bengal represent a synthesis of tune and verse—the two combined and unified into one indivisible whole. Hindustani music is self-sufficient and pure. The controversy which is the better in creation—the single (कृदिक) or the compound (योगिक), has no meaning. A thing is good by virtue of its own merits, not because it is single or compound". \* The outstanding distinction between Bengali and Hindustani songs is the greater weight that is attached in verse-sense in the former. The tune predominating in the latter, it has been possible to indulge in excesses of tune extensions and divisions, often with words of insignificant import. In Bengali songs, although the verse-sense is not distinctly given the precedence, the honour of a superb performance is shared equally between the two. The artistes and composers of Bengali music should therefore be best employed in harmonising the effect of tune and verse-sense. Such a view is supported by the poet and he seems to be paying his best attention to the development of this specialty of Bengali music in his modern songs. "Place my modern songs" he once said, "in a special division of music and give them a special name, if you like—I have no objection".

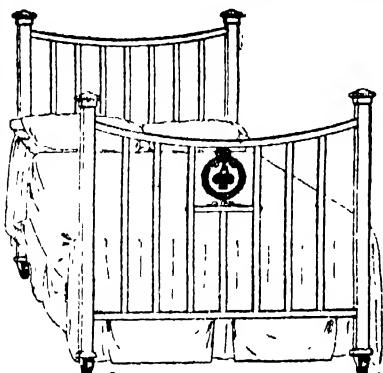
\* Translated from Mr. Dilip Roy's article published in *Bangabani* (Jyaistha, 1332 B S), in which he reported his conversations with the poet on literature and music.

The peculiar merit of the verse-constituent of his music falls aptly within the ambit of the criticism of his poetry. Leaving that aside as being outside the scope of our present enquiry, I may state that the specialty of the purely musical part of his songs consists of the following : (1) Unique harmonisation of tune and verse-sense (2) commingling of tunes (3) rarity of *tanas* and *gitkaris* (4) conception and use of a few new and obsolete *talas*, and (5) a peculiar mode or style throughout. These will be considered *seriatim*.

Without claiming it as an invariable rule, it may be stated that the poet-musicians of the present day compose first the verse and then set suitable tune and *tala* to it whereas in former times our *Ostads*.(musical experts), whether poetically gifted or not, contemplated first the tune and *tala* and set words to them afterwards. It is this fact which is primarily responsible for the purity of tunes in songs composed by *Ostads* and the want of the same in songs by the other set of composers. Those of the latter who care to follow with appropriate airs the twists and turns of the ideas conveyed in the lines of the verse, are often led to intermingle two or more tunes in the same piece of music. A better harmonisation of tune and verse-sense is their advantage, but the risk of incongruous combination of tunes, positively disagreeable to the ear, is as certainly theirs. Being a leading poet-musician of his day, Rabindranath has both the advantage and disadvantage of his order. But with his deep and intuitive sense of the principles of harmonious combination and his acute aesthetic consciousness he has reaped advantages in a much larger measure than disadvantages. Effects similar to those of poetic onomatopœia are being successfully produced in his songs. Singularly appropriate tunes and *talas* help to express the spirit and thought-drift of his verse in a way

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It will ever remain a problem of art whether music and poetry, both of which are devoted to the expression of our ideal or spiritual selves can meet in perfect agreement in a single plane. The poet felt the urge to tackle it rather early. His attention was first drawn to it while composing *Balmiki Prativa*, 'a little drama set to music': in fact this operetta represents his first systematic essay at its solution. He says : "I had read in some work of Herbert Spencer's that speech takes on tuneful inflexions whenever emotion comes into play. It is a fact that the tone or tune is as important to us as the spoken word for the expression of anger, sorrow, joy and wonder. Spencer's idea that through a development of these emotional modulations of voice, men found music, appealed to me. Why should it not do, I thought to myself, to act a drama in a kind of recitative based on this idea ? The *Kathakatas* of our own country attempt this to some extent for they frequently break into a chant which, however, stops short of full melodic form. As blank verso is more elastic than rhymed, so such chanting, though not devoid of rhythm, can more freely adapt itself to the emotional interpretation of the text, because it does not attempt to conform to the more rigorous canons of tune and time required by a regular melodic composition. The expression of feeling being the object, these deficiencies in regard to form do not jar on the hearer" (*My Reminiscences*, pp. 194—195). At one time Rabindranath enthusiastically held this view and endeavoured to prove that 'to bring out better what the word sought to express was the chief end and aim of vocal music.' Later, when he wrote his *Reminiscences*, he confessed the untenability of his position and said : "The art of vocal music has its own special functions and features. And when it happens to be set to words the latter must not presume too much on their opportunity and seek to supersede the melody of which they are but the vehicle. The song being great in its own wealth, why should it wait upon the words ? Rather does it begin where mere words fail. Its power lies in the regions of the unexpressible, it tells us what the words cannot. So the less a song is burdened with words the better. In the classic style of Hindusthani the words are of no account and leaves the melody to make its appeal in its own way. Vocal music reaches its perfection when the melodic form is allowed to develop freely and carry our consciousness with it to its own wonderful plane. In Bengal however, the words have always asserted themselves so that our provincial song has failed to develop her full musical capabilities and has remained content as the handmaiden of her sister art of poetry. From the old Vaishnava songs down to those of Nidhu Babu she has played her charms from the background. But as in our country the wife rules her husband though acknowledging her dependence, so our music, though professedly in attendance only, ends by dominating the song." (*My Reminiscences*, pp. 204—205). The views that have been already quoted on the specialty of Bengali music tend to show that the poet now rejects the idea of the superiority of one

class of music over another or that of the domination of words over songs in Bengali music. Each music has its own well-defined sphere—the one (Hindustani music) being self-sufficient and pure and the other (Bengali music), in its best manifestations, a synthetic product; each may be equally good with an equal claim on our esteem. Thus, imbued with the consciousness of the dignity and prestige of the Bengali music he has set himself to develop all its characteristic features in his modern compositions, and the success that he has attained in this cannot fail to be appreciated by even his casual or indifferent listeners.

The foregoing discussion gives a clue to the preponderance of mixed tunes in his music. The attempt to follow too closely the thought-drift of the verse, the emotional turns, the apostrophic effects, etc., of even the individual words can, not in a few cases, be held responsible for mixture of tunes characterising his music. Consciously or unconsciously, he has committed himself to a process which forces him to fall off from purity on which a high value is set in some quarters. Besides, there was a time when the poet found 'riotous joy of revolutionary activity' and 'played havoc with accepted musical notions'. "My brother Jyotirindra was engaged the livelong day at his piano, refashioning the classic melodic forms at his pleasure. And at every turn of his instrument the old modes took on unthought of shapes and expressed new shades of feeling. The melodies which had become habituated to their pristine stately gait, when thus compelled to march to more lively unconventional measures displayed an unexpected agility and power and moved us correspondingly" (*My Reminiscences* p. 196). It will not much concern anyone to know if the poet continues to find the same delight in 'revolutionary activity' to this day\*. It is enough to be told that he detected at an early date the many significant voices and murmurs of mixed notes. The experience of those days seems to have been turned to the best advantage in his later-day compositions. He now makes his music express a thousand complex emotions and ideas by introducing slight changes in the structure of the old melodic modes and time schemes. Variation is sometimes introduced by importing into the structure a single new note. The process, I need not repeat, cannot be held always to be a conscious one, but the effect is the same viz., complete agreement of tune with the sense underlying the words.

In one of his later lectures Rabindranath advanced quite a novel plea in support of greater freedom to handle his country's ancient music. "In the bio-chemistry of *Rasa*", said he, "a number of notes get combined in a particular manner and become the living cell of music. The music of all countries is composed of *Thats* or tune-skeletons which form of themselves. The freedom of the composers depends on the size of these *Thats*

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\* On the contrary he was reported to have said to Dilip Babu in 1333 B. S. that tradition (musical) was a set of well-tested rules suitable for self-expression and calculated for bringing us joy and that every *true* creation should conform to it. He said that there was a certain amount of elasticity in every living tradition and the avenue for new or true creation was narrowed down or closed only when people submitted wholly to its restrictions instead of availing themselves of its elasticity.

or tune-skeletons. The notes thus set or crystallised are arranged variously by the composers into music."\* According to the views the poet then held our tune-skeletons are rather large and the artistes' freedom of creation is necessarily limited. He desired greater latitude or freedom of composition by breaking up the *Thats* into smaller parts and reconstructing with the fragments, and held out the assurance that, however small the fragments, the reconstructed products would still embody and typify the characteristic *Rasa* and pristine ideal of Indian *Ragas* or *Raginis*. He cited, as an example, the tunes of Bengal's *Kirtan* and *Baul* songs, and said that in these the basic ideal of Indian music is preserved intact even though they have a different structure. His arguments, as might have been expected, could not be accepted as valid by the orthodox section of our musicians. They traced in his appeal for greater freedom of composition or execution a demand for *carte blanche* and hence rejected it. The poet, however, has continued to move somewhat freely in the sphere of his country's music; but his compositions have, on the whole, been pleasing and show great beauty and variety. His combinations of tunes seldom appear improper and disagreeable except to listeners and artistes of fastidious taste.

From what we have already learnt about the poet's views on the relation of Bengali to Hindustani music, it may easily be inferred that we shall have very little of *tanas* or *alapas* in his own songs. In fact, his modern songs are generally marked by an absence of these two important features of Indian music. Short *tanas* may, no doubt, be met with here and there; but these will be found conditioned and necessitated by the requirements as much of tune as of ideas contained in the verse. Two other musical tropes—*midha* and *gitkari* are also conspicuous by their absence. On the other hand many are the happy and charming applications of *asha* and *gamaka* that one comes across in his songs. The *gamakas*, particularly, contribute largely to the peculiarity of his style. Quite apart from his own attitude to the above musical tropes, a fact that stands in the way of their use by artistes who would feign introduce thereby fresh variety or ornamentation in his songs is the intermixture of tunes which so largely characterises them.

*Tala* is an important part of music and may be compared to the poetic metre. Its importance as a measure of the duration, division and subdivision of notes is appreciated by our artistes who are very much strict about its correct observance. 'But when strictness oversteps the limits of usefulness, it defeats its own purpose.' Such has actually been the case in our music, thinks Rabindranath; *tala* has acquired here considerable power to hamper the artiste's creation of new tunes or airs. It is this which once led him to desire, on the one hand, a certain amount of relaxation in the *tala* rules without infringing *laya* (musical evenness

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\* Translated from poet's lecture on *Sangiter Mukti* or 'the liberation of music', delivered at the Rammohan Library Hall in Calcutta.

or concord) and, on the other, liberty to introduce certain new *talas* in close conformity to the rhyming scheme or sense of the musical verse. He has actually given us models which show how he would proceed in both these directions. In the matter of both tune and *talas* Rabindranath's compositions along traditional lines are indeed numerous, and in respect of the latter at least, he has not, generally speaking, departed from the traditional path to this day, although following the drift of his verse he is not always found to adhere strictly to all the *tala* rules. What he once said of European music characterised by harmony applies with some force to his own music : '*tala* exists here in perfect intimacy and shares the same niche with tune'. Moreover the larger the extension of *tala* and the more intricate its structure the less is the freedom of the artiste in setting the tune. Therefore, those who would desire new developments in tune or secure for themselves greater freedom of composition or execution, would have their work considerably facilitated with shorter and less involved *talas*. This is perhaps the reason why *talas* like *Dadra*, *Kuharwa*, *Thumri* predominate in Rabindranath's modern music : even *Ektala* and *Kawali* are seldom used. This search for convenience also accounts for the conversion of *Jhamp tala* into *Jhampaka* although such an innovation may have introduced a variation. *Talas* of nine and eleven *matras* with different *matra* divisions, one of eight *matras* (3+2+3), one of six *matras* (2+4), one of twelve *matras* with new *matra* divisions have been conceived and used by him with success.

One more characteristic remains to be considered and that is a certain pleasing peculiarity of style which is his own. His music in its tune and *tala* setting bears a characteristic personal stamp which leads to the prompt recognition of, and leaves no room to doubt, his authorship. This is true of all his compositions, be it in imitation of foreign music or with broken classical or *Baul* or *Kirtan* airs. But what is particularly to be noted is that this certain and invariable feature does not, contrary to all expectations, invest his songs with a dead uniformity and monotony. From these grave evils his songs have been saved by a surprisingly rich variety of thought-currents which must needs find expression in his music. As in literature, so in music the supreme inventive genius of the poet has stood him in good stead.

We have already quoted the poet's statements which show that he is quite conscious of the specialty of his own music. That being so, it is quite easy to understand why he should be particularly anxious that its specialty is in no way impaired in the actual performance by singers. The poet's views in this respect have found expression in his conversations with Mr. Dilip Roy sometime in 1332 B. S. He wishes his songs to maintain their forms unchanged in execution—wishes them to be sung exactly in the tunes and *talas* set by him. This, no doubt, deprives the performer of all freedom which, as we have seen, it is the time-honoured ideal of classical Hindu music to secure. Why he, who is perfectly aware of this

classic feature, should seek to limit the freedom of the performers he himself has explained : the *Rasa* originating or infused into his songs is contained in the tune and *tala* set by him ; he has left no gap to be filled up by others ; he is grieved to note the daily humiliation and distortion of his songs by inartistic performers. All this makes him disposed to demand of the singers a somewhat strict adherence to *his* tune and *tala* in his musical pieces. Notations have been written down of the great majority of his songs. Against this attitude of the poet Mr. Roy advanced a number of arguments. The poet's object, he said, would have stood chances of fulfilment if the practice of singing from notations had prevailed here as in Europe. He has himself admitted his inability to prevent, despite all his precautions, distortions of his songs by singers. He ought seriously to consider if he would really gain by staying the hands of artistes of the genuine brand in their attempts at variation of his songs if, as it is now found, he cannot stop mishandling of them by inexpert performers. In regard to his poetry people have been left free to derive suggestions and inspirations according to their individual tastes and capacities ; why should it be otherwise with his music ? The original *Rasa* conceived by the composer is, no doubt, entitled to the best consideration ; but that is no reason why a skilful singer should be denied the privilege of investing the poet's songs with fresh beauties with the aid of his powerful voice and the colourings of his own emotional or imaginative conceptions.

We learn, however, from Mr. Roy's article appearing in the *Bharatvarsha* (Bengali) for Jyaiṣṭha, 1333, that he won the poet's approbation by singing some of his songs with the addition of *lanas* and *alapas* in his (Mr. Roy's) own way, without departing from the outlines of the poet's original tune, and secured, on behalf of the singing public, the poet's consent to the variation of his songs. The latter is reported to have said in this connection : "The constructional peculiarity of the tune of each song possesses some elasticity : you have not transgressed the limits of such elasticity (Meaning thereby that it was because of this fact that Mr. Roy's singing had pleased him) . . . Only this much I would say that you should contemplate somewhat closely the music-form peculiar to each song and should not impose the ideal of one class of music on another. Of course, it cannot be said that the peculiar music-form would correctly be visualised in spite of such contemplation. But as no solution of this question is in sight, I would, even though reluctantly, have to concede more or less freedom to skilful singers, particularly when music, alone among the fine arts, is considerably helpless in this respect. Take, for instance, the case of poetry or painting or sculpture. It is possible to make their creations steady and enduring through time. But not so with music. It has to depend every moment on the skill of the performer. So for the composer to hand over his songs to the singer is like a father committing his daughter to the care of her husband, saying : 'My son ! although I begot this darling, her entire charge now rests on you. She will be happy if

you can arrange for her happiness, miserable if you cause her misery'" The concluding words are as fine as they are instructive.

To avoid possible misunderstanding I would point out that I do not consider the above analysis to be, in any sense, final and all-comprehensive. I have only indicated the main and characteristic trends of the poet's music and can hardly do more with the compositions of a genius ever so variable and versatile as his. I feel along with many ardent lovers of his music that its rich and thrilling melodies and the very apt harmonisation of tune and sense are really defiant of analysis. Neither am I unconscious that analysis is not the proper way to the appreciation of music, for music, particularly that which is vocal, is a synthetic product. His music is built up by the heart's imagination and emotion, hence it shows impatience of restrictions imposed by tradition or technique. So natural would appear the relationship between his tune and the idea underlying his words and so perfect the concord between the two that, even when armed with the most thorough-going charter of liberty to introduce variation into his music, few would venture to lay their hands on it for variational purposes. The more closely his music is studied the more clearly does it appear that it has come to occupy a large enough part of the world of the 'inevitable' of Art. Bengal would ever remember him as one who had a considerable part to play in the renaissance of her music, as one who has contributed some of the choicest melodies to its rich and inexhaustible store-house and made genuine and untiring efforts to implant into the minds of a self-forgetful public his own convictions as to its dignity and special functions. By making his songs and modern Bengali music generally, a distinct and separate subject of study from classical music, she has paid him one of her best compliments.

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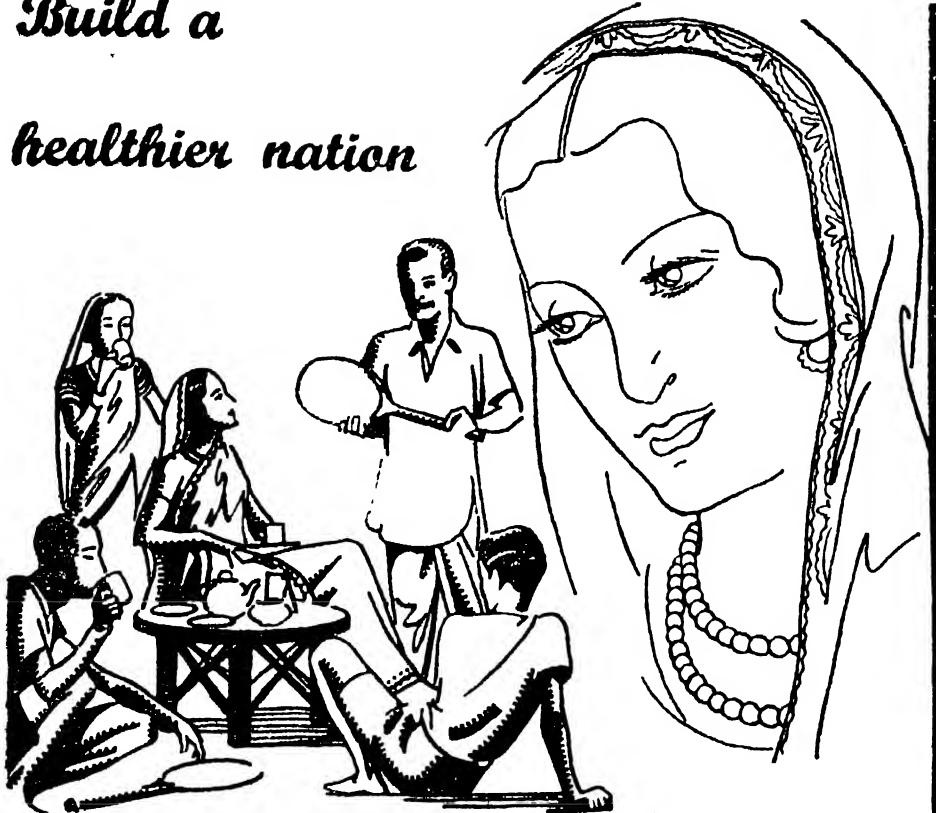
One good thing about tea drinking is that it needs no elaborate thesis for its recommendation. Tea, as a matter of fact, is its own recommendation. This is a point about which any two tea-drinkers must think alike. If it were not the case the number of tea drinkers in this country would not have swelled by thousands every year.

The average Indian is at times puzzled by uncharitable remarks made about tea drinking by prejudiced minds. One suspects that none of those critics has ever taken the trouble of finding out for himself what a cup of well-made, good Indian Tea tastes like. Happily, the number of such critics is small, and they are treated as faddists and cranks. How we wish they did try for once a cup of delicious Indian Tea and realise for the first time what a blessing it is to be able to drink this absolutely pure and wholesome beverage !

Ideas often die hard, but when the issue is raised whether the inculcation of tea habit is good for the health of Indian people, one really wonders how such a misconception can still persist in the face of known and attested facts. Can there be any room for two opinions as regards the purity of Indian tea as a beverage ? The boiled water in which tea has to be brewed must obviously be free from all germs. From the health point of view there can be no more agreeable means of taking water into the system in its purest form than by drinking tea at regular intervals during day and night. It is well known that no other agricultural product is treated with such refined methods in its preparation for human consumption than Indian Tea.

These die-hards who malign tea drinking have neither reason nor facts on their side. They are only pitting themselves against the rising tide of tea drinking which is now sweeping through the length and breadth of India, and in vain. Knowledge is always victorious over prejudice and facts will eventually assert themselves.

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**H**OW are your sons and daughters growing up? Are their constitutions sound? Or is there anything that is retarding their healthy growth? Indian mothers in these days, are responsible not only for the welfare of their family, but also for the progress of the race as a whole. Strong and healthy men and women are needed in this country, more and more. Careful supervision of diet at home, is, therefore, an important matter. Don't forget the importance of tea as part of the daily family menu. This harmless, refreshing beverage is just what the youngsters need; what's more, it's a habit to be encouraged. The tea habit will go to build a healthier nation.

**HOW TO PREPARE TEA** Use good Indian Tea. Boil fresh water. Rinse with warm water a clean and dry earthenware tea pot. Take one teaspoonful of tea for every person and one extra for the pot. Pour boiling water on to tea leaves in the pot. Allow five minutes for infusion; then pour out into cups, adding milk and sugar.

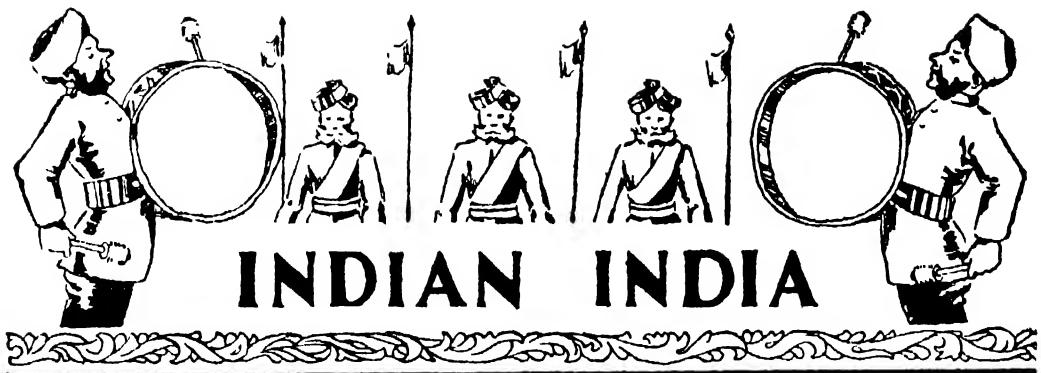


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**The only family beverage - INDIAN TEA**

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I. K. 27.



## COMMITTEE OF STATE MINISTERS

The Committee of State Ministers met informally on September 6 in Bombay to take the opportunity offered by the unofficial visit of Mr. Walter C. Monckton, K. C., Hyderabad's Chief Legal Adviser, to India for having friendly discussion with him on constitutional matters. Representatives of twelve States attended besides the Secretary to the Chamber of Princes.

Sir Akbar Hydari, introducing Mr. Monckton to the Committee, emphasised the value of the work done by him in London for Hyderabad and the States in general and referred to the minute care with which he had examined the provisions of the Government of India Bill so far as it related to Indian India. He reminded the Committee that representations sent by the Committee in February and March were substantially based on the views expressed by Mr. Monckton, specially with regard to clause 6 as originally drafted. He thanked Mr. Monckton for the services rendered by him to the States in general.

Mr. Monckton thanked the Ministers for their reception and said that although Section 6 as amended did not satisfy his expectations from the point of view of Hyderabad, he was satisfied with the Act in that it provided for a machinery, whereby it was reasonable to hope that satisfactory Instruments of Accession could be negotiated, if the difficulties which the States had to face in that stage were sufficiently appreciated by the Government.

The Ministers then discussed the matter relating to the Instrument of Accession and agreed to recommend to the States generally the preparation of suitable material connected with reservations or limitations that were intended for the purpose of Federal legislative list to be placed before Counsel in England, so that points of common interest might be looked into by them. The Ministers unanimously repudiated the objections recently raised in the Press and attributed to the States with regard to Clause 6 (4) and 110.

## HYDERABAD

A Finance Department notification announces that the subscription list for the new 3½ per cent 1946—56 loan opened at 10 o'clock on September 7 last and closed shortly thereafter, the maximum of one crore being subscribed.

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The Director of Agriculture recently went on a tour in Mahbubnagar district and visited a number of villages in the Mahbubnagar, Kalwarkurti, Nagarkarnul and Amrabad taluqas.

He inspected the Nagarkurnul farm which belongs to a cultivator who receives a grant-in-aid for improving his farm. The Agricultural department advises him in the cropping and general management and supplies him with improved form implements. The compost pits introduced by the Department are supplying good manure for the farm. The lay-out and general appearance of the farm has improved a great deal. He next visited the Lingal Settlement which is an excellent Institution maintained by the Government for the reformation of the Criminal Tribes. Agriculture is the most important of the professions which are being taught to the young and old settlers and agricultural operations are carried on with seeds and implements supported by the Agricultural Department. The well bores made by the Agricultural Department are working very well and are supplying clean water for the use of the settlers.

There are 117 demonstration plots in the three taluqas mentioned above, in which improved varieties of castor, ground-nuts and bajra are being demonstrated. It is this method of demonstration which has helped the department in making the improvements popular in the districts. Sugarcane is more or less a new crop in the district. With the introduction of Coimbatore No. 213 variety, the area under this crop is increasing rapidly.

The Agricultural Department has been carrying on a campaign since the last four years against the insect called the Red Hairy Caterpillar, which appears at the break of rains every year in every large numbers and destroys the young seedlings of all the Kharif crops. The departmental staff demonstrates the method of control of the insect in villages on a large scale, with a view to induce the cultivators to adopt the method and practise it themselves, so as to save their crops. From his conversations with cultivators in the different villages the Director found that some of them have already started carrying out the work on their own account.

The propagandist of the Hyderabad Co-operative Union who was trained in Rural Development at the Patancheru Rural Development Centre, has with the assistance of the Local Officers of the Co-operative, Agriculture, Veterinary and the Revenue Departments, started Rural Uplift work in Boppalli village, about three miles from Mahbubnagar. There are demonstration plots of sugarcane Coimbatore No. 213 and Spanish Pea-nuts in the village. Compost pits have also been started and a beginning has been made in the introduction of kitchen gardening and improved fowl houses. On the veterinary side, the village cattle have been inoculated against Rinder Pest and some bulls have been castrated with the improved castration instrument. A day school for children and a night school for adults has come into existence and sports of all sorts are being introduced. Songs dealing with the improvement of the village life have been taught to the villagers who sing them along with their dances. There is a Co-operative Society in the village which is reported to be working very satisfactorily. A Co-operative Meeting Hall has recently been built where meetings and shows are held frequently. The greatest success that has been achieved during the short period the work has been in progress is the complete removal of the drink evil from the village. This is a very good start and it is expected that it will lead to great improvements in the village life.

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The members of the Aligarh University Old Boys' Association have decided to present an address of congratulations to H. E. H. the Nizam during the Silver Jubilee week. A committee was formed to collect funds to celebrate the Jubilee.

The Osmania University College Union has passed a resolution to collect Rs. 1,200 to celebrate the Jubilee and the College Day.

Messrs. Tata and Sons have promised a sum of Rs. 2,000 towards the Jubilee celebrations.

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Referring to the recent communal disturbances at Secunderabad Mr. Mohammad Hissamuddin, Secretary of the Young Men's Mahomedan Association, Secunderabad, exhorted the Hindus and Muslims to celebrate their festivals without provoking bitterness. Addressing the latter he said : "Muslims should not forget that their Quran does not allow them even to deprecate the idols." He quoted the Quran to say : "You must treat all as your brethren, because all are the children of God."

### BARODA

The following Press Note has been issued by the Publicity Committee of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Committee, Baroda :—

The Working Committee of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar at its meeting held on the 18th August considered it necessary in view of certain statements appearing in the Press to reiterate the fact that it was not compulsory for any one from amongst the Baroda State subjects, official, or non-official to subscribe to the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Fund. It was, however, pointed out at the meeting that this fact had been made quite clear in the speech by Sir V. T. Krishnamachariar, Dewan Sahib, on the occasion of the first meeting. The meeting further solved that the Diamond Jubilee Fund was not a tax in any way as Income Tax, Local Cess or Land Tax, and that every one was at liberty to subscribe according to his means and willingness. The Committee also directed that all District Committees should conduct their affairs in the spirit of the resolution mentioned above.

It has also come to the notice of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Committee that an impression has been created outside that most of the Committees appointed in connection with the Celebration are mainly composed of officials. This is not true as can easily be seen from the composition of the Committees given below :—

(1) As to the Central Committee—out of the total of 90 members, 65 are non-official and 25 official.

(2) The Working Committee of the Central Committee has 18 non-officials out of its total strength of 30 members.

(3) On the Baroda City Committee, 100 out of 125 members are non-officials.

(4) The six Committees for collecting subscriptions in the city have a total strength of 71 members, of whom 69 are non-official and 2 only are official.

The proportion of officials and non-officials is also maintained in the District Committees.

Besides, it may also be pointed out that the Chairmen of majority of Committees are also non-official. It will, thus be seen that the statement made by some persons that the Committees have been packed with officials is absolutely unfounded.

Another statement which the Committee think it necessary to correct is in connection with the so called contribution of Rs. 20 lakhs by the Baroda Government towards the Jubilee Fund. The Baroda Government has not so far given any promise of that kind.

It has already been announced that a greater part of the Fund collected is intended to form a permanent Trust, the income from which will be used for the purpose of village uplift work and that those who subscribe to the Fund will naturally have a voice in framing the final and detailed scheme for this work.

It is understood that preliminary arrangements in connection with the Rural Life Exhibition to be held by Baroda Government as part of the

Diamond Jubilee celebrations are now complete. The exhibition is intended to embrace all sides of the village activities—social, cultural and economic. An intensive uplift activity has accordingly been set in motion under the supervision and guidance of several development departments and their officers who are in charge of constructive works in those directions in the villages. The whole movement is being controlled by a central organisation presided over by Mr. M. B. Nanavati, the Naib-Dewan in charge of the Local Self-Government and Development portfolio.

### mysore

The *United Press of India* understands that the official announcement restoring to the Mysore Durbar, the Civil and Military Station in Bangalore, will be made in the coming autumn.

The following safeguards will accompany the deed of transfer :—

- (1) Full liberty of religion, manners and social rights for Europeans and Anglo-Indians ;
  - (2) Entire educational protection as recommended by the Irwin Sub-committee ;
  - (3) Full British citizenship rights, which will form one of the Federal subjects ;
  - (4) Adequate representation in the Mysore Legislature and in the Federal House ;
  - (5) Protection of economic interests as explained in the Government of India resolution of July, 1934 ;
  - (6) Retention of the Indian Auxiliary Force Battalion ; and
  - (7) Equal rights of entrance into the Mysore Public Services.
- \* \* \*

The Government of Mysore have appointed a mixed committee of officials and non-officials under the chairmanship of Rajamantrapravina

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S. P. Rajagopalachari, B.A., B.L., Second Member of the Council, for the purpose of examining and suggesting modifications, if any, to the present Rules and Standing Orders of Business of the Legislative Council and the Regulations relating to the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

The subjects for examination and modification include such important constitutional matters as the desirability of continuing the present arrangement of treating the Representative Assembly as a constituency for returning members to the Legislative Council and the restriction of membership of an individual to one House only as in British India and legislative matters such as the provision for the introduction of a bill in Legislative Council without previous consultation of the Representative Assembly, besides rules relating to the introduction and discussion of Private Bills, allotment of days for non-official business, certain matters connected with resolutions and putting of questions, etc.

The Committee is requested to examine the matters and submit their report to the Government as early as possible.

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Reviewing the report of the working of jails and lock-ups in the State during 1934 the Mysore Government state that there was a slight fall in the number of juvenile offenders under the age of 15 and that the question of having a Borstal Institute was taken under active consideration by Government. There was a marked decrease in the number of prison offences, and the health, discipline and conduct of the prisoners continued to be satisfactory.

The expenditure of the Department rose from Rs. 1,18,157 to Rs. 1,24,910 and that on prisoners in the two jails in the State from Rs 91,411 to Rs. 95,231 during the year. The average net cost after deducting cash earnings from the remunerative labour of the convicts was Rs. 78-8as. per head.

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Increased volume of work in all the major hospitals is revealed in the Government review on the working of the hospitals and dispensaries in the State during 1934. Both the Victoria and Krishnarajendra hospitals put in more work in electro-therapy and pathological departments. The Minto Ophthalmic Hospital is now open for post-graduate training and hospital attendance for candidates for D.O.M.S. examinations.

The total expenditure of the Medical Department during the year was 15 lakhs. The contributions from District Board and Municipal funds amounted to Rs. 268 lakhs.

The Government acknowledge the generous contributions from philanthropic gentlemen for providing better accommodation and comfort to the patients resorting to the several hospitals.

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A scheme involving Rs. 18 lakhs as capital cost and Rs. 2 lakhs as working capital for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, ammonium sulphate and other sulphates in the State has been decided by the Chemical Industries Sub-Committee of the Board of Industries and Trade on the recommendation of Sir C. V. Raman. The prospects of the venture are supposed to be very good as a home-market is assured for these chemicals and all the raw materials are available in the State with the exception of sulphur which has to be imported from British India.

### TRAVANCORE

The Executive Committee of the All-Travancore Joint Political Congress have issued a statement congratulating His Highness's Government on their ability to effect a bold solution of the vexed problem of representation in the legislature of the disfranchised communities in general and Ezhavas, Muslims and Latin Catholics in particular. 'It will be the look-out of the Committee' continues the statement, 'to avail themselves of every opportunity to co-operate with the Government of His Highness in their efforts towards the realisation of the benign desire given expression to by His Gracious Highness in the promulgation of the

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**Legislative Reforms Regulation.** To ensure such co-operation of all concerned, it is fervently hoped that the Government will be pleased to recall the repressive policy, which they had recourse to and allay heart-burning so far as the disfranchised communities are concerned.'

The statement draws the attention of the Government to the want of a definite assurance to the Syrian and South Travancore Christian groups but hopes that the Franchise and Delimitation Commissioner will provide necessary safeguards to ensure proper representation of all communities in the legislature.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is understood that the Government of Travancore have sanctioned the grant of a sum of Rs. 1,000 to the Travancore Cocoanut Growers' Association for carrying on the work of the Association within the State in regard to the development of the cocoanut industry. This grant has been made as a measure of financial assistance to the organization in view of its work for the promotion of the industry in the State.

\* \* \* \* \*

We understand that the Government are considering the question of protecting Padmanabhapuram Palace as an ancient monument and this may lead eventually to the enactment of the Preservation of Ancient Monuments Act. Padmanabhapuram is one of the great historical places, the scene of momentous events and was the capital of Travancore till the beginning of the eighteenth century. The palace is in Kerala style and rich in art treasures. Its mural paintings are expected to evoke the admiration of all art-lovers in the world.

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The Government of India have raised the tariff value of cocoanuts imported from Ceylon from Rs. 22-12 as. to Rs. 28-8 as. per thousand, as a result principally of the representations of Travancore Government, the Travancore Cocoanut Growers' Association and the Cochin Cocoanut Growers' Association. About 10 millions of people in Travancore, Cochin and Malabar—which between them claim one million acres out of the total area of 14 million acres under cocoanut in India—depend for their livelihood on the cocoanut industry and are now hard hit by a drastic fall in prices due to dumping from Ceylon. The announced enhancement in tariff value will, it is largely held, be not adequate to place matters on a satisfactory footing.

### INDORE

His Highness the Maharaja of Indore is to be congratulated for announcing at his twenty-eighth birthday the institution of a State Legislative Council composed of thirty elected and nominated members with fuller powers of legislation than the old Legislative Committee. The Council will meet at least twice a year and will be addressed by the Prime Minister once a year at its winter session. It will have the power of initiating legislation, but no bill passed by it will become law until it receives the

assent of His Highness who may, in some cases, reject or modify any such bill or may order its reconsideration by the Council. Certain matters will have to receive the previous consent of the Prime Minister and certain matters will be outside the purview of the Council.

The relative strength of elected and nominated members will be half and half. Of the elected members two will represent the Bar Association, two the Municipalities, one the Gyara Panchas, two merchants in the city, one industrial organizations, one Jagirdars, one graduates of three years' standing and the remaining five, each for one district will represent the rural population. The nominated members will be appointed by His Highness on the recommendation of his Ministers. The Minister in charge of the Legal Department will be the ex-officio President of the Council while the Vice-President will be appointed by the Maharaja.

### BUNDI

More light has been thrown on the Bundi Public Safety Legislation which has been characterised as an unusually severe measure by interested parties. In the first place, it will not be used to stifle legitimate criticism of the Administration but directed against malicious and baseless propaganda against it and its officers on behalf of a few interested persons among the rural population of the State. Secondly, the measure is not a permanent one but is intended to remain in force for two years for the present. Thirdly, the more drastic punishments are reserved for those who are found guilty of advocating a violent overthrow of the established Government in the State. The benevolent and enlightened administration of His Highness the Maharaja of Bundi may well be relied upon for softening the rigours, if any, of the law when enforcing it in individual cases.

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A number of financial and administrative reforms have been recently carried out in the State, bringing it in line with other progressive States in Indian India. The Revenue Department has been reorganised and all accounts have been brought up-to-date. The system of payment of land revenue through Patwaris has been abolished and the cultivators are allowed to pay direct into Tahsil treasury amounts which are recorded on documents handed over to them by the Government. The cost of Survey and Settlement operations has been reduced, and *Chouhanam*, the 15 per cent tax on the transfer of immovable property, has been abolished. The Police Department has been reorganised; its strength has been increased and the pay-scales revised. All this has resulted in a considerable decrease of crime all round. The arduous task of settling the criminal tribe of Kanjars has been successfully performed. The Finance Department has been overhauled and in spite of a considerable increase in expenditure on Public Works it has been possible to pay off a large amount of public debt. Customs, Excise and Forest duties have been revised and internal duties on the movement of produce and many other cesses and taxes have been abolished. The Judicial Department has been reorganised to avoid laws' delays and make justice easily available. The number of courts has been increased from 7 to 15 and a High Court and a separate Sessions Court have been established. In fact, there is hardly any department whose administration has not been overhauled and remodelled so as to secure the maximum benefit to the State people.

# Matters of Moment

## THE ITALO-ABYSSINIAN DISPUTE

The Italo-Abyssinian dispute is continuing in its ominous course towards war. The tripartite conference in Paris, between England, France and Italy, came to nought owing to Italy's uncompromising attitude. The League, which commenced its session on September 4, seems to be destined for no better end. Much was expected of the League, particularly in view of Britain's solid support for it in the present case, but all hopes are being belied, and the situation is daily becoming more serious and more alarming.

Throughout the whole of this fateful dispute, Italy has consistently taken her stand on the plea that the dispute is a local issue between Italy and Abyssinia, and does not concern the League or the other Powers, who should keep themselves carefully off, and merely look on while she settles it in her own way. She has been pointing out that Abyssinia, though a formal member of the League, is in reality an old, mediæval, priest-ridden, slavery-ridden, barbarian land, which is absolutely unworthy to sit alongside civilized nations, and therefore not entitled to be treated as a member of the comity of Nations. She has been made a member of the League, and Italy, to her regret, helped her to this membership, but that has been a costly mistake and should now be rectified. The hopes, which were once entertained of the modernisation of the country under the impact of civilized nations, have all been belied, and she is now as antediluvian as ever. When the League began its session on September 4, Italy brought forward this charge. She complained that Abyssinia had refused to delimit illegally occupied Italian territory and that continued attacks had been made on Italian diplomatic and other representatives and property in Abyssinia and in Italian Somaliland. Therefore, she contended, the League members were not "bound to observe the rules of the covenant in their relations with a member which has put itself outside the pact by violating its obligations". The charge of uncivilized behaviour and the consequent claim for being given a "free hand", is not new; we had enough of it at the time of Japanese aggression in Manchuria.

The Italian charge was hotly repudiated by Abyssinia, who declared that Italy was attempting to create a League precedent by proposing to condemn a nation which was acting within the scope of its sovereignty, a claim which it is difficult to disbelieve in view of the persistent Italian refusal to allow the Committee of Enquiry to investigate whether Ual-ual,

where the trouble started, really lies in Abyssinian territory as was claimed by that country.

This charge and counter-charge made only matters worse. The situation however was temporarily saved by the joint efforts of France and Britain, who persuaded the League to appoint a Committee of Five to report on the dispute and to try to arrive at a settlement. The Committee of Five has been consequently appointed, consisting of Mr. Anthony Eden (England), M. Laval (France), Col. Beck (Poland), Senor Madariago (Spain) and M. Tewfik (Turkey), to act as a go-between between the protagonists, presumably on the basis of the Paris proposals, and Signor Mussolini has been pleased to declare that Italy will not resort to war so long as the Geneva talks continue.

But any hopes that Mussolini's assurance might have aroused as to any relenting on his part were foredoomed to failure. Italy soon made it clear that she was in no mood for a compromise, and would not listen to anything short of a complete control of Abyssinia. The Committee of Five had perforce to abandon its conciliation work, and the little hope of compromise that yet existed, vanished. A great effort was made by Britain to persuade Italy to a more sensible frame of mind, but with little success. On September 11, Sir Samuel Hoare, made a historic speech at Geneva affirming Britain's intention to fulfil her obligations under the League Covenant, and on the day after he was followed by M. Laval, who affirmed the French faith in the League, and France's intention to fulfil

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her League obligations and her complete alignment with British policy on the Italo-Abyssinian crisis.

But nothing has succeeded in deviating Mussolini, even by a hair's breadth, from his pre-determined course. On the day after M. Laval's speech, coming in the wake of Sir Samuel Hoare's speech, had raised high the hopes of peace, came an Italian communique, issued by Signor Mussolini, stating that the Italo-Abyssinian dispute does not admit of a compromise solution after the huge efforts and sacrifices made by Italy. Earlier in the day, had come an Italian cabinet meeting in which Signor Mussolini gave his Ministers a full report on the military and political situation, and on the basis of detailed information demonstrated that the total Italian military, naval and air forces were sufficient to meet any threat from whatever source it emanated.

What little hopes of peace might have remained, vanished completely after this. It is reported that the Committee of Five is framing certain proposals which will shortly be placed before Italy, but it is believed that Italy will reject them in advance. War is now certain and imminent. The rains have ceased in Abyssinia. The Italian preparations are almost complete ; hostilities are expected to commence in the early part of October.

That war is certain hardly admits of any doubt at present. The only uncertain point being its sweep and range. Will it be confined within the limits of Abyssinia, or will it spread beyond its borders and embrace the whole world in its trammels, as in 1914 ? Italy, as we have already mentioned, is trying her best to localize the war. She has consistently maintained that the dispute concerns no one else but the parties in question, and so no Power should butt in. Any such action will not stop her but only endanger the peace of the world ; and she is being materially helped in this by France, who is trying her best, first to reach an amicable settlement through the League, and next, if that is impossible, to localize the conflict. She has affirmed her faith in the League in the hope of inducing Mussolini to accept compromises but she is as far as ever from the idea of the employment of League sanctions against Italy. She believes that Italy will meet any such sanctions with armed hostility, which will involve the whole world in a war. She does not want any such development, and for herself she will in no case employ any sanctions against her ally. M. Laval's speech has nowhere been interpreted as modifying this definite French policy which was made clear in the very beginning of the dispute.

Athwart this Franco-Italian desire of "let alone" or "localisation" policy, stands Great Britain. She refuses to attach any more importance to the Italian plea for "localisation" *vis-a-vis* Abyssinia than what the Allied Powers did in regard to the similar Austro-Hungarian plea when she sent her ultimatum to Servia. But like 1914, it is not known what Britain will do if war breaks out. True, in that fateful cabinet meeting which took place after the Paris talks failed, the British Government had, on the

authority of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, made up its mind, and Sir Samuel Hoare's great speech at Geneva on September 11 testifies to it; but it is uncertain whether Britain is ready to vindicate the ideals of the League by arms. The British newspapers, though supporting Sir Samuel Hoare's affirmation of British support of the League, almost as a body, give no indication to think that Britain is ready to go the extreme, i.e. to go to war. The British public is frankly divided on the issue. There is no doubt a strong body of militant opinion, but the bulk of the people seem not to care enough for it.

All the while, however, Britain is getting ready for hostilities. Quietly steadily, swiftly British defences in the Mediterranean are being fortified, British garrisons strengthened, British naval squadrons increased. The Italian newspaper, "Azione Coloniale", which is often the mouthpiece of the Italian Colonial Office, declares that nine British naval units have been added to the Mediterranean fleet, that British garrisons have been reinforced in docks and ports, and that offensive and defensive works have been reorganised and in one case strengthened. The bases at Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus, Haifa and Alexandria, it continues, are in a state of defensive and offensive readiness, and adds "a level of armaments has been reached, which begins to threaten our position in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Every arrival of a British unit in our seas can only invite counter-measures on our part, and if there is question of transferring the British Home Fleet to our shores, the reply must be much more serious."

It seems, as the Paris Press suggested long ago, that the Italo-Abyssinian dispute is developing into a trial of strength between Italy and Britain for the mastery of the Mediterranean, the vital artery of the British Empire.

## HITLER, JEWS AND MEMEL

Though Italy is at the present moment occupying the whole of international platform, Herr Hitler's speech to the Reichstag at Nuremberg should not fail to draw the attention it deserves. The speech which is meant to serve as a formal declaration of Nazi policy deals with internal as well as external affairs.

A cardinal principle of the Nazi as well as the Fascist philosophy of state is the complete identification of the party with the state and Hitler's speech carries a step further this merging of the Nazi party and the Reich, and as a corollary to that, it completes the social and political segregation of the Jews, who are Germany's "pariahs". In pursuance of this policy a new "citizenship" law is announced, which declares that henceforth a citizen of the Reich will only be a state citizen of German or kindred blood, who, by his behaviour, has shown that he is willing and suitable to serve the German people and the Reich loyally. Reich citizenship shall be acquired by the bestowal of a letter of patent. A Reich citizen is the sole bearer of full political rights. Citizenship, henceforth

will not thus be a prerogative of birth and nationality, but will be a gift of the Führer, to be earned by loyal service to the Reich, which means the Nazi Party. Membership of the Nazi Party will thus be for all practical purposes a condition precedent of citizenship and political rights, and the party and the State are thus completely identified. Such a denial of the most fundamental rights and liberties of the people, of the most precious and sacred of human rights, that of liberty of thought and opinion has no parallel beyond the borders of Soviet Russia.

By the side of this most flagrant violation of human liberty, the measures about the Jews pale into comparative insignificance. They are directed to bring about a complete segregation of the Jews. In his business profession, amusements, culture, in social relations, in the education of his children, the Jew is to be a class apart. He may not marry a German, he may not employ German women, he may not serve the State or fly the German flag. The Jew in Germany will be in far worse position than the Negro in America, for the Law at least makes no distinction between the Negro and the White, while it is the Law which segregates and fetters the Jew in Germany. The Führer however has been kind enough to promise them a cessation of the mass-lynching, that is prevailing in Germany, in future, if the Jews behave well. But if their harmful activities, within and without the Reich continue, then they will be made to feel the wrath of the Nazis.

But it is not so much the internal as the external policy of the Führer which has been causing anxiety in the foreign chancelleries of Europe. The danger spot on this occasion is Memel, which promises to become, in succession to the Saar, Austria and Danzig, the exposed nerve of Europe.

Memel, a stretch of 4099 sq miles on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea between East Prussia and Lithuania, was detached from Germany by the Treaty of Versailles, and was handed over to Lithuania in 1923. A year later a convention was signed by Lithuania, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan—not by Germany—which constituted the territory of Memel a unit under Lithuanian sovereignty, but with a strong dose of local autonomy, while the Port of Memel was to be regarded as a loosely defined international concern.

Of Memel's 1,50,000 inhabitants, the majority are Germans and protestants and they control the local Diet. The Nazi allegations against Lithuania are that in order to prevent the German Nationalist Party from retaining their majority in the Diet, Lithuanians have in large numbers been drafted into Memel and given voting rights. Herr Hitler also declared that the Germans in Memel were treated worse than criminals—though perhaps not worse than Jews—and he reaffirmed the Nazi claim to the allegiance and to a large measure of control over the fortunes of Germans in foreign countries—a doctrine subversive to the sovereignty of the immigrant state. He appealed to the League to intervene in the

affairs of Memel "before things happen which may be regretted by all concerned." From the tone of Herr Hitler's speech, it is evident that he has little faith in the intervention of the Powers or the League and that other and more direct action is possible and is perhaps awaiting the developments of the Italo-Abyssinian crisis to engage the Western Powers and give the Nazis the necessary free hand. The Austrian move ended in a fiasco owing to the certainty of armed Italian intervention, backed by France, but the Abyssinian affair promises fairly to engage Italy and to involve England deeply in its meshes. An armed Nazi inroad into Memel, as is perhaps in the contemplation of the Führer will have the gravest consequences. Lithuania, to whom the port of Memel is of vital importance, and who is already deeply suspicious of the growing friendship of Germany and Poland, will meet any such inroad with armed force, and France, Britain and Italy would be deeply involved. Of course, the possibility of War will rest on France, but France may take advantage of Italian and British pre-occupation in Africa to cripple Germany. Certain it is that France, who is determined to remain out of the African dispute, will not allow Germany a free hand in the East.

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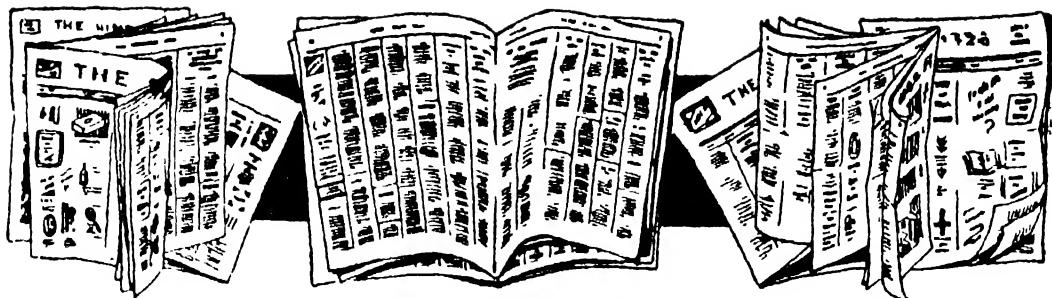
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## Gleanings

### PERMANENTLY SETTLED ZEMINDARI AND INCOME TAX

In a well-thought-out article appearing in the *Insurance and Finance Review* Mr. Hemendra Nath Ray, M.A., B.L., examines the question if the income of a permanently settled zemindari is assessable with income-tax. The Regulation I of 1793 expressly declared that the zemindar is the actual proprietor of the soil and the zemindari is his estate. He may do whatever he likes with the land included in his estate. He pays a land tax which is the Land Revenue of the Government. That being the case, he cannot be called upon to pay an income-tax on whatever remuneration he may earn, such as could reasonably be demanded of him if he had been merely a rent collector or *Gomastha* or Tahsildar of the Government and either the Government or the cultivator the proprietor of the soil.

Besides, as he can reduce or remit the rents or leave his estate fallow, the income-tax would always be in jeopardy and uncertain. The Government of Lord Cornwallis has, therefore, wisely and beneficially assessed the zemindars with a fixed land tax or revenue, payable in all years whether of abundance or of scarcity and irrespective of floods, short rain-fall, locusts, earthquakes, devastation due to wars or any pest or other calamities. It does not also matter whether he leaves the land fallow or not. This wise, far-sighted arrangement has worked admirably enough for nearly a century and a half but the root-and-branch man, the leveller and the shortsighted politicians are out to undo and upset this arrangement. The reiterated pledges of the Government and the plighted faith of the British cannot be lightly set aside without dislocating and undringing everything and undermining the foundation of the social and political economy and Governmental credit.

The Regulation I declared the assessment of zemindaries *fixed for ever* and assured the zemindars that 'no demand will ever be made upon them or their heirs or successors by the present or any future Government for an augmentation of the public assessment in consequence of the improvement of their respective estates'. In the face of this declaration their Lordships of the Privy Council have held in a recent case that the zemindar may be further taxed under the Income Tax Act.

But upto now the situation has been saved by the Patna High Court ruling that the income of the zemindar is an agricultural income and so under the provisions of the Income-tax Act itself the zemindar's income is exempt from Income-tax. But this

this is a slender reed on which leans the landed Aristocracy of Bengal. This is not enough for them. What is really required, is that a fresh legislation ratifying and reiterating the pledges of permanency of the Government Revenue assessed on zemindaries, should be passed.

The subsequent part of Mr. Roy's discussion turns on an examination of the Privy Council view referred to above and is quoted *in extenso*.

It would appear from the Privy Council ruling, (Raja Prabhat Chandra Barua V. King Emperor), that the Respondent in the case contended as follows :—

(i) That what the Permanent Settlement accomplished was to fix for ever the quantum of the Government share of the produce of the land ; and

(ii) That upon their true construction the Regulations do not purport to exempt the zemindar from taxation in respect of the income derived from his zemindari.

Justice Ghose of the Calcutta High Court said, when the matter was being considered by the Full Bench of that Court :—

"There was no promise or engagement of any description whatsoever by which the Government of the day surrendered their right to levy a general tax upon incomes of all persons irrespective of the fact whether they are zemindars with whom the 'Permanent Settlement' was concluded or not".

The Privy Council agreed with this view of Justice Ghose and said :—

'In their Lordships' opinions, while the Regulations contain assurances against any claim to an increase of the 'Jama' based on the increase of zemindari income, they contain no promise that a zemindar shall, in respect of the income which he derives from his zemindari, be exempt from liability to any future general scheme of property taxation or that the income of a zemindari shall not be subjected with other incomes to any future general taxation of incomes".

Let us now consider again the exact position which the Privy Council took

They admitted the *Jama* was fixed for ever and so permanent, but the income of the zemindars could be taxed like all other incomes. Where then is the permanency of the assessment made in 1793 ? We have already seen that the zemindar is the actual proprietor of the soil and the full owner of the Estate and the Government has no share or part in the proprietary right in the zemindari. So, the Government has no right to any share or "*quantum*" of the produce of the land or the Estate, as the Respondent i. e., the Government contended before the Privy Council. The zemindar is the full owner and is entitled to the whole of the produce of the land and Estate and is only liable to pay a tax to the Government and the *Jama* settled in 1793 at the Permanent Settlement is that tax, and as the Government declared that tax as fixed for ever no further tax can be assessed on the zemindari without a breach of the faith of the British Government. I should not omit to point out that Sec. 4 declares a "*Jama*" to be fixed for ever. It does not say that "there shall be no increase of the 'Jama' owing to the increase of the income of the zemindari", as the Privy Council held. The *Jama* or the Government revenue or tax payable by the zemindar has been fixed for ever irrespective of the increase or decrease or otherwise of the produce or income of the zemindari.

### LAND MORTGAGE BOND AS AN INVESTMENT

Mr. D. T. Shah, B. Com., examines in the pages of the *Mysore Economic Journal* the prospects of our Land Mortgage Bonds as an investment and makes suggestions to improve them. He says :

In India the land mortgage banking is of recent origin. The debentures of these institutes are not a listed security of the Stock Exchange. They find customers due to Government patronage. The Baroda and Mysore States have given the banks a guarantee of purchasing their debentures to the extent of a certain prescribed limit. But it is quite necessary to expand the land mortgage banking and create a market for these bonds or debentures. These bonds or debentures are long-dated security and therefore would be a suitable investment for the Insurance companies, with

whom marketability is not a pre-requisite, and others who seek a good yield and permanent locking up of their money. Trust funds will generally find this security most suitable. The bonds will also be a suitable investment for a part of the funds of Investment Trusts and big financial houses. Frequent dealings can only command a ready market. This can be done if Government can see its way to make it compulsory for all those making deposits with them to deposit in the form of this security. If there is a greater demand and the safety is assured with a remunerative yield the brokers would think worth their while to quote the security and acquire its knowledge. Ultimately this security would be quoted on the Stock Exchange.

The debentures of the land mortgage banks are gradually issued by the bank itself. This is rather an expensive procedure as it involves the expenses of advertisements and issuing prospectus, loss of interest due to the remanning of money idle during the intervening period of raising and lending, etc. It would . . . . . be desirable to make arrangements with primary co-operative societies to cash the debentures at a slight discount. These societies should pass them over to Central Banks who should tap the wider resources and charge a small fee to the respective banks of issue for this kind of business. Where there are Central Mortgage Banks, they should perform this function ; in their absence the present co-operative Central Banks should carry on this business. These Central Banks should keep their representation on Stock Exchange to create an active market and to prevent under-speculation in this security and consequently great fluctuation in the price. The mortgage banks should utilize the sinking fund to stabilize the prices of their own bonds by purchasing them when the prices are low and selling when high. The banks should also, like the German Landschafts, allow the debtor to make the repayment if he likes in bonds instead of money with a view to augment the popularity of these bonds. The marketability of this kind of security needs to be greatly developed in this country.

Lastly, the Stock Exchange should try to facilitate the sale of this security, make rules for it, apply its tests before accepting it on its list and base the membership on sound business character and reputation and thus create a confidence in the mind of the public for its listed security.

It is only the professional and experienced people that lay much weight on the security and marketability ; the overwhelming majority of investors pays first consideration to the yield. Exemption from tax would help much to induce some investors. The land mortgage bonds are free from political influences, budget deficits, changing taxation, strikes, etc. There is, therefore, no need to worry about the great fluctuations in earning power of this security. The rate of interest on this security is also generally higher than other forms of securities.

In conclusion, it may be said that this security is an attractive and sound investment and in some of the European countries the Mortgage Bond commands a good market in spite of its yield being less than the Government securities. Until the bond finds favour with the ordinary people the philanthropists should come forward and encourage this security as it is issued ultimately to solve the problem of rural uplift.

### A MODEL DIET

The following extracts from the address of Mr. W. R. Aykroyd, Director of the Institute of Nutrition, Coonoor, on dietary requirements of human beings delivered at the Indian Institute of Science, and published in the *Hindu*, will prove of considerable interest :

The following is a cheap well-balanced diet, based on ragi, costing about Rs. 4 per adult man per month, which has been devised and tested in the Coonoor laboratories, where active work on the subject is being carried out. This diet, while not perfect, contains in reasonable amounts the various food factors required by human

beings. A number of different cheap diets, costing Rs. 4-5 per month are being investigated :—

Food	Amount per day Ounces	Composition	
		Calories	Grams
Ragi	16.0	Protein	83 Grams
Soya bean	2.0	Fat	46 "
Dhal arhar	2.0	Carbohydrate	483 "
Jaggery	1.0	Calcium	279 "
Spinach, Amaranth (4.0 each)	8.0	Phosphorous	1.22 "
Potatoes, Colacasia (1.0 each)	2.0	Iron	0.12 "
Cocoanut oil	1.5	Carotene	.006 "
Butter milk	6.0		

The essence of modern practical dietetics can be briefly expressed in simple language. The most important principle is the value of a large intake of the "protective" foods, milk and milk products, and green vegetables (to which may be added fruits). No diet can be pronounced adequate unless it contains these foods in reasonable abundance.

Once the consumption of protective foods is ensured, elasticity in the remainder of the diet is permissible and choice may be allowed free range. Meat and fish, which some class among the protective foods, are useful and palatable foods in moderation, supplying first class protein and vitamin B2 ; glandular organs and blood are, however, richer in vitamins and mineral salts, unmilled cereals are richer than milled cereals in protein, mineral salts and vitamins, and for this reason, American workers have recommended that one-third of the cereal consumed should be in unmilled form ; the same opinion is being advanced in France. The greater the quantity of cereal in the diet, the more important it becomes that the more nutritive parts of the grain should be consumed.

A well-balanced diet containing abundance of the various food factors is particularly necessary to children, expectant and nursing mothers and those required to make exhausting physical efforts. It has repeatedly been observed that hard work disposes an individual on a defective diet to deficiency diseases. A diet which may keep an adult living an unexacting life in fair health may fail to meet the requirements of a growing body and be inadequate for a time of stress.

In India it is essential that we should know how far existing food production and potential food production are capable of providing the entire population with a diet pronounced satisfactory by modern nutritional science. This is task for agricultural statisticians, but existing statistical data may be insufficient for this purpose, and special efforts may have to be made to collect the necessary information. It is already clear that one of the primary needs of the country is a greater supply of good quality clean milk, and agricultural departments should make the improvement of milk supply one of the corner stones of their policy.

### MOLASSES AS MANURES

"Molasses, the waste products of Indian Sugar Factories, when added to the soil, will conserve and also add combined nitrogen to the Indian soil which has been pronounced to be deficient in combined nitrogen" says Dr. Nilratan Dhar, D.Sc., of the Allahabad University in a highly informative article contributed to the Puja Special of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* :

In our country [ says Dr. Dhar ] not a single firm exists for the fixation of the nitrogen of the air and naturally ammonium salts manufactured in other countries have to be used for the soil but the Indian peasant is too poor to utilize the imported and costly ammonium salts. They utilise farm-yard manure (cow-dung), oil cakes, green

manures etc. All these substances contain proteins or complex nitrogenous compounds. The proteins supplied to the soil with manure are first converted into ammonium salts, which in their turn combine with the oxygen of the air present in the soil forming nitrites. The nitrites are also oxidised (combine with oxygen of the air) to nitrates, which are the real nitrogenous plant food materials. The plants absorb nitrates from the soil and utilise them for the building of proteins or nitrogenous compounds in their bodies. Ammonium salts are very seldom and nitrites not at all, used up directly by plants.

The experiments carried on in the Chemical Laboratory of Allahabad University show conclusively that the combined nitrogen (that is the most important substances necessary for plant growth) e. g. ammonium salts and nitrates are considerably increased when molasses, the waste product of sugar factories in India are added to the soil and the soil well-ploughed. It is well known that the molasses contain a large percentage of carbohydrates. How is that the addition of carbohydrates to the soil increases its combined nitrogen content? Just as carbohydrates on combination with the oxygen of the air supplies energy to the animals, the oxidation of the carbohydrates added to the soil with molasses sets free energy, which is utilised in the combination of nitrogen and oxygen present in the soil leading to the formation of nitrates. The generation of nitrates from air requires energy, which is supplied to the soil by the oxidation of the carbohydrates added with molasses. The nitrates formed in this way on the addition of molasses to the soil, which has been well ploughed, reacts with the carbohydrates with the formation of ammonium salts and traces of amino-acids and that is why an increase in the amounts of the ammonium salts is readily detected on the addition of molasses to the soil, which has been well-ploughed. The ammonium salts thus formed in the soil are exposed to light and air and form nitrates by light absorption. And thus the most important nitrogenous compound necessary for the plant growth i. e. nitrate is added to the soil when molasses are used as nature.

Numerous experiments on the estimation of the ammonia content of the soil before and after the addition of molasses show that the ammonia content of the soil is 3 times greater after the addition of molasses than that originally present in the soil, even when a correction is applied for the amounts of ammonia introduced along with molasses.

Moreover, recent researches carried on here prove that molasses when mixed with soil also help in the conservation of the nitrogenous compounds present in the soil. Experiments show that the loss of nitrogen from the soil on adding large amounts of nitrogenous compounds to the soil is greatly decreased when along with the nitrogenous compounds, molasses, or other carbonaceous compounds are also put in.

The following rules produce good results with molasses as a fertilizer for increasing the nitrogen content of the soil :

1. Spread as uniformly as possible 90 maunds of molasses after mixing it with water per acre of land.

2. Dig or turn the soil once every week after the application of molasses. Continue this digging for 2 or 2½ months and then sow the crop. Frequent digging is necessary for the successs of the experiment.

3. Water the soil after the addition of molasses as frequently as you can manage.

4. The oxygen of the air combines with the sugars of the molasses and liberates energy, which is necessary for the fixation of the nitrogen of the air in the soil. In this way the nitrogen of the air is added or fixed or combines with the oxygen and increases the fertility of the soil for a better cropping. An oxygen is necessary for this process and the soil must be well aerated by turning it frequently after the addition of molasses. Rice, wheat, sugar-cane etc, will be produced in greater amounts if the above procedure is carefully followed.

# National Agriculturist Party of Oudh

## The realisation of aims and objects.

By RAI BAHADUR KUNWAR MAHESHWAR DAYAL SETH,  
*Taluqdar, Kotra Raj, Hony. General Secretary.*

The first step towards the realisation of the aims and objects of the association is to have a powerful organisation that may speak with one voice and act with one mind and make its influence felt in every sphere lying within the range of its operation. Every organisation, if it aspires to achieve anything substantial, should be marked with the following essentials :—

*Coherence* : The entire organisation must be knit together by units similar in thoughts, similar in traditions and similar in outlook and be pervaded by a spirit that informs, controls and directs the working of the whole machinery. Each unit must be a living centre from where life flows contributing its peculiar endowment to enrich the whole organisation and imbibing from it the resultant force to act in union with the impulse that proceeds from it.

*Pulsation of life* : The whole organisation must pulsate with dynamic forces helping the orderly evolution of its possibilities and potentialities. It must be in a state of constant activity, constant motion and constant advance energizing and galvanising every part and keeping it vigorously active in the sphere determined for it and imparting to it the necessary momentum for successful and effective operation. It should throb with a spirit of genuine patriotism and genuine loyalty to the ideal. Its benevolent activities should cover a vast area and be directed towards raising the ignorant, the credulous, the beguiled, the poor, the distressed and the lowly to a level where they may realise the dignity of existence as a social and political unit. It must toil, work and labour to build national life, national institution and national character and blend the social, the economic, the political conditions of the country in such a manner as to ensure an orderly move towards the national ideal.

*Power of resistance* : No organisation, however coherent, however vigorous, however progressive, can survive long if it lacks the capacity to resist. If it witnesses, with cold indifference the play of adverse forces and does not take cognizance of the danger that lies ahead, it must be prepared to meet an evil day. It must be strong enough to repel every attack that is made on it and to measure swords with an adversary if it challenges its strength. We must be able to protect its rights and privi-

leges, its conventions and usages and give battle royal to those who throw obstacles and create difficulties in the way of its progress.

*Spirit of adventure* : It must be endowed with a spirit of adventure. It must explore regions yet unknown, sound the depth yet unfathomed, carve out a path yet unconcealed, conquer elements yet invincible. It must rekindle new sympathies, forge new friendly links, discover new possibilities and evolve a new force. It must accomplish what was hitherto considered to be formidable, it must simplify what was hitherto considered to be intricate and complex ; it must popularise what was hitherto considered unintelligible ; and above all it must unify what was hitherto considered scattered and divided. It should consider no obstacle so great as to be unsurmountable, no force so overwhelming as not to be repelled, no opposition so stubborn as not to be pushed aside. It must grapple with the situation, rise equal to it and capture the prize for which it aspires and enter the goal that lies before it.

*Financial stability* : Finance is the very life-breath of an organisation. Without it no programme of work can be carried out successfully. Without it no scheme, however promising and attractive it may be, can succeed. Without it the most cautious forecast belies and betrays the worker. Without it even the coherent character of the organisation is likely lost, the parts constituting it fall to pieces. Without it the vigorous flow of life is retarded and dries up for want of sustenance ; even the spirit of adventure makes a halting move and wavers to plunge itself into the thickest of the fight.

On these essentials as its base, the National Agriculturist Party of Oudh takes its stand conscious of the magnitude of the task, but confident of its growing strength, increasing capacity, developing driving power. With a net-work of its brauches in every town, in every Tahsil, in every village, in every Thana, its coherent character stands unassailed. With an extensive propaganda carried on with unabating zeal, iron resolve and triumphant faith, it pulsates with vigorous life and energy with increasing numerical strength in membership and with unification of all grades of the landowning class under one banner, it would repel any attack from opposite rank. With leading Taluqdars and landlords, rich in intellectual, moral and social endowments, rich in heroic traditions and adventurous deeds of valour, rich in the priceless assets of past achievements, it would distinguish itself in the field of adventure, and enterprise and win laurels for it.

With an inspiring history of benevolent deeds and charitable acts with a splendid and unsurpassable record of dedication of wealth to national developments, educational developments, educational progress, social regeneration and rural uplift, to which several universities in the province, numberless educational institutions and numerous social centres would bear testimony, it need not entertain the least anxiety for its funds, and a lac of rupees for which an appeal will be shortly issued will pour in from all sides and vindicate the dignity, the greatness, the prestige of the great order for which the Party stands. The British Indian Association will probably be the first in the field to set an inspiring example to leading men of wealth and resources in the Province of Oudh.



## Oudh Taluqdars' Deputation to Governor

[A Deputation of the Taluqdars of Oudh waited on His Excellency Sir Harry Haig at Naini Tal recently and submitted a representation against the proposed reduction in the number of seats allotted to them in the reformed legislature.—Ed.]

It has been our misfortune that, for some time past, Oudh has been unrepresented in the Provincial Cabinet. The result of this is that our claims and our rights have not been properly put forward before the Government and hence they have not received the just and due recognition. It is for this reason that we have found it necessary to approach Your Excellency direct in the hope that you will be pleased to act as the guardian of our rights and interests in the council of the Government and to see that justice is done to us.

We have already suffered a serious disappointment in that our just and reasonable claim for a proportionate increase in the number of our representatives has not found favour with the British Government in spite of the support which was accorded to it by all Indian Committees appointed to collaborate with the Statutory Commission. Unfortunately the Prime Minister's award now makes it impossible for Your Excellency's Government to maintain the present proportion of our representation in the future Assembly, but we respectfully and earnestly urge that the existing number of seats allotted to us should not be reduced. Ours is the only constituency in India in the case of which it is proposed to reduce the number of representatives. The reasons for the reduction of our seats are given in paragraph 28 of the Government Memorandum. The criterion adopted is incorrect as the basic principle on which these seats were originally allotted was not the number but other factors. Even as regards the number the statement in the Memorandum is misleading and incorrect.

It is always a distasteful and sometimes a painful task to draw comparisons and in the numerous representations which we have so far made, we have scrupulously avoided all disparagement of the rights of the Zamindars of the sister province. We always urged their claims side by side with our own and it was inconceivable to us that they would be willing to accept increased representation if it were offered to them at our expense. Now that such a situation has, however, arisen we feel that we must in justice to our cause bring to Your Excellency's notice the fundamental differences which exist between our Order and the Zamindars of Agra. This was the main difference which was responsible for the original decision to allocate a large number of seats to us.

We presume that Your Excellency is fully aware that the Taluqdars of Oudh enjoy special privileges and hold a special status. We will not, therefore, take up Your Excellency's time with an enumeration of our rights and privileges. We beg, however, to submit to Your Excellency that one of the chief reasons for the determination of Lord Canning to restore the Taluqdari system in our province was his desire to establish a territorial aristocracy which should not merely be a reproduction of the Zamindari system of other parts of India but should have the unique privilege of being the counterpart of the English Peerage in giving advice and assistance in matters administrative and legislative, both provincial and local. As early as 1861 Lord Canning addressing the Taluqdars, said :—

"You who are now in independent magistracy of your province, have already

become, although you are the newest of the Queen's Indian subjects, the foremost of them in the practice of self-Government?"

Shortly afterwards the Kaiserbagh Palace was granted to the Taluqdars for their residence because, if we may again be permitted to quote the words of Lord Canning,

"It is very desirable that intercourse between the Taluqdars of Oudh and the Local Government should be facilitated; you will derive benefit from the wise and friendly council of the Chief Commissioner and he will have advantage in friendly communication with you".

The subsequent history of the province provides ample testimony to the close co-operation which has always existed between the Taluqdars and the Government.

Even the Statutory Commission recognised our special status and we beg to be allowed to draw Your Excellency's attention to the following passage in the first Volume of its Report :—

Some of the Taluqdars represent the old conquering families with an ancestry dating back to the ninth century. In the chronic anarchy which marked the closing stages of the Kingdom of Oudh, the larger Taluqdars occupied a position which at times amounted to virtual independence . . . The most powerful of the Taluqdars own hundreds of villages and enjoy very large incomes. Their wealth, social status and the control which they exercise over their tenants, gives these 'Barons of Oudh' a position of very great influence over their area.

In order to discharge their duties more properly, the Taluqdars lost no time in organising themselves and established their Association more than seventy years ago. Since then the Association has been taking an active and important part in the political and social life of the Province. The Agra Zamindars themselves recognise our special status, as is clear from the following passage contained in the memorandum of their Association submitted to the Joint Select Committee —

The Taluqdars of Oudh hold their estates under *sanads* granted by the Crown which has bestowed on them full right, title and possession. They have been enjoying also other rights and privileges which they greatly cherish. Their titles under the *sanads* and engagements with the British Government have been described as in the nature of 'quasi treaty' rights. The British Indian Association of Oudh is one of the oldest Association in India and is the most influential body in Oudh, which exercises great influence in the public life of Oudh. It has Statutory recognition and its membership is hereditary.

The Government itself recognises our special status. The list of members of our Association is the basis for determining exemption from licences for the possession of fire-arms and we have been given special representation in autonomous and local self-government bodies such as the Lucknow University, and Lucknow Municipal Board, etc.

Recently the Zamindars of Agra attempted to follow our example and have established an Association but there still exists a fundamental difference between that Association and ours. The only qualification fixed by the Agra Association for admission to membership is the payment of a certain amount of Government revenue. Thus a representative of an ancient and influential house who pays a little less than the prescribed quota cannot become a member, while a person who has managed to amass an estate paying more than the prescribed revenue, but who possesses no influence or standing, is entitled to membership. The smaller Zamindars are rigidly excluded and the Agra Association is designed to be a close corporation of some, but by no means of all the larger Zamindars of that province.

The constitution of the British Indian Association of Oudh is entirely different. Every representative of the ancient and long established aristocracy of the country is *ipso facto* member of the Association, if he possesses an estate, no matter how big how small. Thus our Association has among its members the most influential and the most prominent landlords of every district, of every tahsil and of every pargana of Oudh. Some of the members of our Association pay several lakhs each as Government revenue and own estates of a size the like of which cannot be found in the Agra province, while others pay much less revenue than the quota

prescribed for membership to the Agra Association. Further in order to be in touch with the requirements of all classes of landowning interest our constitution provides for the election of Zemindars as additional members. It also provides for the representation of district Zemindar Associations. At the present time we have both these classes of members on the rolls of our Association, which is thus fully representative of the entire landowning interest of the province and is in fact the true landholders' constituency.

We beg to submit to Your Excellency that not only does the Government Memorandum err in adopting the number as a criterion for allotment of seats to members of the British Indian Association and to the Agra Province Zemindars Association but the number given in the Memorandum is quite different from what would appear in the list of membership of the British Indian Association and of the Agra Zemindars Association. The British Indian Association has a membership of 425, excluding additional members, and not 373 as stated in the Memorandum, while the Agra Association according to its latest list has 583 and not 716 members as mentioned in the Government Memorandum. Even these figures are to a large extent, deceptive because, while all Taluqdars are *ipso facto* members of our Association and their heirs must, under Statute, continue to be members. The membership of the Agra Association is voluntary and the heir of a member may or may not become a member. Thus after the life-time of its present members the Agra Association might cease to exist altogether. Another fact which we beg Your Excellency to consider in this connection is that the field from which members of the Agra Association may be recruited is being constantly circumscribed owing to continual subdivision of estates and a consequent reduction of the land revenue of each share. Such a contingency is too far remote to happen in Oudh owing to the existence of the law of primogeniture.

Another manner in which Your Excellency may judge of the relative importance of the two Associations is by considering the fact that while the members of our Association pay over a crore of rupees as land revenue, the members of the Agra Association pay much less than that sum. In considering the number of the members of both the Associations the weightage in our favour can be easily judged from the fact that while every member of the British Indian Association pays 1/4 per cent on the Government revenue, the member of the Agra Zemindars Association pays only As. 4. per cent. This difference in the rate of contribution provides ample explanation of the weightage in favour of the members of the British Indian Association, apart from any other of the important consideration mentioned above.

The financial position of the two Associations can be judged from the following figures. The annual income of our Association is about Rs. 1,25,000 out of which Rs 76,750 are given to the Canning College and the Colvin Taluqdars' College and a nett balance of Rs. 48,750 is available for the general purposes of the Association. On the other hand the annual income of the Agra Association comes to about Rs. 19,000 according to their latest figures, out of which one-fourth is payable for educational purposes. The nett income thus available to the Agra Association only comes to about Rs. 14,000 per annum, a sum much less than our annual miscellaneous donations to educational, charitable and public purposes apart from the permanent grants to the Canning and Colvin Taluqdars' Colleges. A glance at the annual report an budget of Agra Association will show to Your Excellency their financial position as compared to ours.

We crave Your Excellency's indulgence to permit us to invite your attention to another aspect of the question. In the Agra Province there are altogether 81 general rural seats (excluding the depressed class seats) and 38 Muslim rural seats. In the Oudh, on the other hand, there are only 26 general rural seats and 13 Muslim rural seats. Thus while the Agra Zemindars can contest at least 119 seats, the Taluqdars of Oudh can only seek election from 39 constituencies. Consequently, even without any reduction in their special representation, the Taluqdars are at a great disadvantage in the matter of elections as compared with the Zemindars of Agra.

It would not be put out of place here to bring to Your Excellency's notice the fact that, even in the matter of general constituencies, the claims of Oudh have not

received just recognition. In Oudh one general rural seat, is allotted to an average population of 3,36,376 or 50,384 voters. In Agra one seat is allotted to a population of 3,14,120 or 47,779 voters. In the matter of Muslim seats Oudh is no better treated. While Agra each member will represent an average population of 1,04,919 persons or 18,109 voters, in Oudh he will represent a population of 1,31,593 or 21,415 voters. If the two provinces had been equally treated Oudh would get two more general seats and two more Muslim seats. There would thus be four more seats open to the Taluqdars.

We also feel in our duty to represent to Your Excellency that only one seat has been allotted to the women of our province and that too to the Muslim women of the city of Lucknow, while five women's seats have been allotted to the Agra Province.

We sincerely beg to thank Your Excellency for having granted us an opportunity to lay our grievances before you in regard to the proposal for delimitation of constituencies for the Provincial Legislative Assembly. We hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to consider our submissions favourably so that the number of seats which our Association at present has is not reduced. We feel confident that justice will not be denied to us.



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## British Indian Association

The British Indian Association has communicated its views on the Bengal Rural Indebtedness Bill through its Joint Honorary Secretary, Mr. Probhanath Singh Roy to the Secretary, Bengal Legislative Council. The following is the full text of Mr. Singh Roy's letter :

Sir,—I am desired by my committee to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 30th August and to say that they have considered the Bengal Relief of Indebtedness Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Irrigation Member which seeks to provide for relief of indebtedness of agricultural debtors in Bengal. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Hon'ble Irrigation Member emphasises the importance of the Bill by stating that "the agriculturists of Bengal, particularly those of its most fertile and previously most thriving districts have become involved in debt far beyond their power to repay and unless a "remedy is provided the consequences may be disastrous to the province." And the "remedy" in the opinion of the Hon'ble Member lies in conciliation or cancellation of debts. It is unfortunately approaching the question from a wrong angle.

It is difficult to understand how the deterioration of agriculture in Bengal which the Hon'ble Members deplores can be effectively overcome by the establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards. Agriculture has decayed not because debts are increasing but debts are increasing because Agriculture has decayed. "The crowding of the people on the land, the lack of alternative means of securing a living, the difficulty of finding any avenue of escape and the early age at which a man is burdened with dependants combine to force the cultivator to grow food wherever he can and on whatever terms he can". This is the situation governing agricultural conditions in Bengal and it is difficult to maintain that such a miserable situation can be remedied by conciliation or cancellation of debts without arranging for scientific credit facilities, making holdings economic and agricultural operations profitable. The secret of successful industry is to buy finance cheap and sell produce dear and it is also undoubted that the peasant buys his finance dear and sells his produce cheap. The Bill under review sidetracks the whole question and lays emphasis on the need for adjustment of debts. It is undeniable that a debtor, when relieved of a fraction of debts, heaves a sigh of relief but that is bound to be short-lived unless the contributory causes of indebtedness are seriously grappled with and successfully overcome.

It is very unfortunate that the great majority of agricultural debtors contract unproductive loans through ignorance or improvidence and "no legislation however wise or sympathetic can save from himself the cultivator who is determined to work his own ruin." This aspect of the problem was recognised by the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India when they stated in their report that "where his (cultivator's) land has passed into the possession of the creditor, no legislation will serve his need, no tenancy law will protect him, for food he needs land and for land he must plead before a creditor." It is clear that the problem is vast and does not or will not yield to solution if the legislation for settlement of debts finds its way into the statute-book. Such a legislation, if it serves any purpose at all, will bring about shrinkage of credit money available to the ryots of Bengal. The Bengal Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee estimate the total requirement for short and intermediate loans at Rs. 96 crores and in their report it is stated that the loans supplied by the Co-operative Societies are to the extent of Rs. 4 Crores and by loan offices to the extent of Rs. 2 crores. In 1928-29 it is further stated that under the Land Improve-

ment Loans Act, the sum of Rs. 93 (in thousands) and under the Agriculturists Loans Act the sum of Rs. 14,14 (in thousands) were given. The rest of the loans necessary for cultivators are met by money-lenders. However unsatisfactory the arrangement may be, it is the money-lenders who are satisfying the growing needs of loans by agriculturists and as long as their needs remain unattended to by Co-operative Societies or by land mortgage banks, money-lenders should not be interfered with in their useful functions. But the Bill under review definitely strikes the money-lenders not by reducing the rate of interest which is a legitimate weapon with Government but by adjusting debts in scorn of the wishes of creditors and in compliance with applications from debtors—a principle fraught with immense possibilities of potential mischievous to the rural economic structure of Bengal.

My Committee are furthermore concerned to find that an adjustment of debts under the said Bill is founded on the principle of compulsion, which in nothing but a drive against stakeholders in the country, and the middle class population of Bengal, connected as they are with the land, will be smarting under wrongs when they will find their resources crippled by the proposed conciliation or cancellation of debts. The principle of compulsion has found no room either in the C.P. Debt Conciliation Act 1933 or in the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act 1934, nor has it been recognised in the Madras Debt Conciliation Bill. My Committee do not know what has made the Government of Bengal decide on the principle of compulsion which nullifies the sanctity of contractual obligations. If the flow of credit money is thus diverted into the sands of adjusted debts it will inevitably follow that the moneys released for agricultural loans will contract and there will thus be a sharp decline in agriculture directly and in trade and industry indirectly. Such grave consequences convulsing the facade of economic structure in rural Bengal should not be contemplated without the fullest consideration. In this age of planned economy the principle of compulsion is not inherently wrong if it can be maintained that such a course is resorted to for public good but the Relief of Indebtedness Bill is no part of planned economy as it is an isolated measure which is bound to cause irritation in society without giving the desired relief to agriculturists. My Committee do not and cannot appreciate the Government of Bengal initiating and supporting such an inequitable, imperfect legislation which will have disastrous effects on the credit organisation of rural Bengal. It is abundantly clear that the Bill will fail to achieve its object while it will revolutionise the fabric of rural Bengal.

The Bill could have escaped much of its criticism if it were an emergency legislation. My Committee can contemplate that under emergent conditions emergency measures are to be adopted which in normal circumstances cannot claim an iota of support. If Government are satisfied that emergency conditions prevail, then the case for such a legislation as an emergency measure gathers strength. But emergency conditions cannot exist for all times to come and such a permanent measure, as contemplated, is neither wholesome, nor called for. It is idle to expect that machinery of debt conciliation will go on throttling down creditors for all times whereas credit money which the ryots need very badly will be available to them at a low rate of interest serving the needs of agriculture. Still the Bill

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contemplates such an incongruous situation. It is a case of Government interfering in private contracts but avoiding their own obligations to ryots. The Bill does nowhere make the Government responsible for meeting the loan requirements of ryot but it definitely seeks to stifle the existing avenues of credit-money open to them. The Government would thus be doubly wrong—wrong for indifferently treating the needs of agriculturists and for neglecting the interests of creditors who are as much entitled to the protection of the State as the debtors are.

My Committee find that the proposed Debt Conciliation Boards, which will be permanent features in the rural economy of Bengal, will stay all civil court decrees and suits and the awards of the Boards will be final in preference to civil court decisions. When the Boards are proposed to be permanent, the power and jurisdiction of civil courts are definitely relegated into the background and they will be of little significance in the rural areas. The civil courts exist for interpreting the ordinary laws of the land : the Boards owe their origin to an extraordinary legislation. The Boards by virtue of being superimposed on civil courts will distribute justice not according to any set of rules or laws but in accordance with "what they think fair." It is very interesting to find that Government have no faith in their own laws : they have thus substituted Boards for courts and the discretion of the Boards is final and unappealable to any civil court. My Committee are really perturbed to find that such a grave "ordinance" for creditors will exist in Bengal for all times. Moratorium on debts is perhaps fair, adjustment of debts under emergent conditions may perhaps be condoned, even repudiation of debts may have no logical fallacy, but it is neither fair nor legitimate that for all times and on all occasions conciliation or cancellation of debts will go on in supersession of any civil law of the land, at the discretion of a Board and on an application from a debtor. Such a move on the part of any Government is essentially wrong, inherently unjust and highly injurious : the more so when Government is based on the capitalistic superstructure. This supersession of the civil law of the land in respect of agricultural debtors will, apart from doing injustice to creditors, affect Government stamp receipts in the shape of court-fees.

The Bill on analysis is found silent on punctilious payment of current rents. In respects of the ryots whose debts are awarded, the Bill should make a clear provision that punctual payment of current rents should be the condition precedent to enjoyment of the awards of Boards. If ryots fail to pay their current dues, they should automatically be debarred from the privilege of awarded debts. It is a universal maxim, respected on all hands that the rights of ryots are derived from faithful discharge of their obligations and under no system of Government can it be contemplated that ryots will be having all the privileges without payment of rents and if debts are awarded and current rents are allowed to default, there will be no end of settlement of debts, one after another, disturbing the rights of landholders in a direct manner. If there exist no provision ensuring punctual realisation of current rents the Bill may easily be interpreted as encouraging ryots to default in payment of rent and in that case the Bill under review will be in direct conflict with the rights and obligations respected by the Bengal Tenancy Act. This is a serious lacuna in the present Bill which should in all fairness be remedied.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is broadly hinted that the Bill under review is more or less based on the provisions of the Central Provinces Debt Conciliation Act, 1933 and the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act 1934. The preamble to the C. P. Act lays emphasis on "amicable Settlement" and debt exceeding Rs. 150 can only be considered under the Act. The Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act 1934 can only give relief by amicable settlement. The Madras Debt Conciliation Bill is conceived on similar lines. It is peculiar that the Government of Bengal should depart from other Provincial Acts in respect of amicable settlement and other vital matters which my Committee propose to show in their criticism of the provisions of the Bill.

With these introductory remarks my Committee record below their considered opinions on the provisions of the Bill under review :—

(1) In clause 2, sub-clause 8, 'debt' is defined including amongst others arrears of rent but excluding any amount recoverable as a public demand. In the C. P. and

Punjab Act arrears of land revenue or anything recoverable as an arrear of land revenue are excluded from "debt". In Bengal rent by being a first charge on lands has a sanctity of its own which is distinct from other charges andas such it should be differentially treated. My Committee find that any amount recoverable as a public demand is not to be included in "debt" which roundly means that Government as landlord will not allow the Debt Settlement Boards to touch on arrears of rent payable by the khasmahal tenants. It is not clear from the section in question what the position of privileged landlords will be in respect of their arrears of rent which are also recoverable as public demands. It seems from the tenor of the Bill that the privileged landlords will not have the same privileges as Government as landlord will have in respect of their arrears of rent and if such differentiation is contemplated, that will be highly invidious. If the analogy of the C.P. and the Punjab Acts are strictly followed in all their implications the claim for arrears of rent being excluded from "debt" becomes irresistible. My Committee accordingly find the definition of "debt" extremely vague and cannot and do not support the inclusion of arrears of rent within the definition of "debt". Arrears of rent have in the eyes of law the same status as arrears of revenue; it is only in respect of rent that arrears are permitted unless barred by the law of limitation whereas in respect of land revenue, no default is permitted under the sunset law. Rent as a first charge on land is affected if arrears of rent with their scheduled rate of interest thereon under the Bengal Tenancy Act are permitted to be compounded before a Board guided by no law except "what they think fair." My Committee oppose such a move which vitiates the sanctity of rents.

(2) In clause 2, sub-clause 9, re . definition of "debtor", the Bill under review widely departs from the definition given in the C.P. and the Punjab Acts. The C.P. Act states : "Debtor" means a person who earns his livelihood mainly by agriculture and who is an occupancy tenant or absolute occupancy tenant or raiyat or raiyat-mahik

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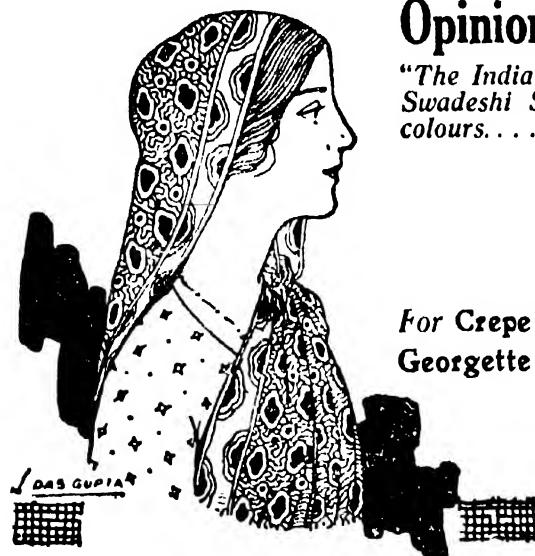
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or a malik-makbuza or a proprietor, whose debts exceed Rs. 150". The Punjab Act states : "Debtor" means a person who owes a debt and who both earns his livelihood mainly by agriculture and is either a landowner or tenant of agricultural land or a servant of a landowner or of a tenant of agricultural land or who earns his livelihood as a village menial paid in cash or kind for work connected with agriculture." The definition of "debtor" in the Bengal Bill is sufficiently narrow for the reason that the vast body of tenure-holders are to be excluded from the scope of debtors. The definition as given is defective and one may be both a tenure-holder and ryot and if he incurs loans for domestic ceremonies, he will be a debtor but if he incurs loans for pushing his cottage industry in which he has specialised, his debt will not be considered as "debt" as the Bill does not include "debt" incurred for the purpose of trade.

My Committee feel that unless the definitions of "debt" and "debtor" could be satisfactory and comprehensively worked out, the Bill has every chance of giving relief where unnecessary and refusing relief where necessary.

(3) Under clause 3, sub-clause 2 re : establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards the Bill is silent as to what interests will be represented in the Board. In the composition of the Board predominant rural interests should not be neglected and to allay public suspicions provision to that effect should be inserted in the Bill.

(4) In provision to clause 4, the power of the Collector to step in after the dissolution of a Board and to complete the work is open to serious objections. The work may be temporarily suspended until a fresh Board is constituted, otherwise there will exist no incentive to appoint a fresh Board in the event of dissolution and the Collector will in that case be exercising the Board's summary powers which cannot be supported under any pretence whatsoever. The very wide powers invested in the Board should not on any account be transferred to the Collector.

(5) Clause 8 contemplates withdrawal of applications from certain Boards and such withdrawal should not be permitted more than once, otherwise frequent withdrawals may be resorted to by way of dilatory tactics.

(6) Clause 9, sub-clause 2, should be suitably amended as to provide that if a debtor is benefited by the decision of the Board, he should not be allowed to make any further application for settlement of fresh debts until he satisfies the Board that he has no outstanding liability under the terms of the previous settlement. My Committee feel that until all the instalments are cleared, the Board will be inviting complications by entertaining further application from such debtor. But if by "disposed of" is meant "rejected" only, my Committee do not object to further application from such debtor within 2 years of the disposal of the first application.

In clause 9, after sub-clause, a new sub-clause should be added to debar such debtors who are guilty of wilfully neglecting to comply with the terms of the Award from coming before the Board at any subsequent period. Debtors should know that the awards of Boards are very sacred and they should not be negligently treated.

(7) Under clause 12, sub-clause 2 the Board shall give notice by "a registered letter."

(8) Under clause 13, subclause 1, the Board shall issue notice in "a registered letter."

Under the rule-making power the local Government have taken upon itself to decide the manner of issuing notices but any committee feel that in clauses 12 and 13, there should be a clear provision for "a registered letter" for the safety of creditors.

(9) In clause 14, sub-clause 3, document under the control of the creditor which have not been produced by him shall not be inadmissible in evidence if they are produced afterwards. My Committee feel that it is not an easy task for creditors to produce documents under their control but not in their possession on a date fixed by the Board.

(10) In clause 19, sub-clause 2, it is contemplated that interest on arrears of rent may be cancelled and that the amount of the principal of arrears of rent shall not

be reduced except by an amicable settlement. My Committee have no objection to conciliation or cancellation of legitimate interest on arrears of rent by amicable settlement but if the scheduled rate of interest payable under the Bengal Tenancy Act on arrears of rent is cancelled by the Board against the wishes of landholders, it envisages a situation where rent as first charge on lands is interfered with. The Tenancy Act by allowing interest on arrears of rent recognises that defaults in payment of rent should not be permitted without any penalty. Moreover, tenure-holders failing to discharge their obligations to superior landlords are to pay interest on their respective arrears of rent. My Committee are, therefore, of opinion that if landlords can prove to have paid interest in respect of rent due from tenants, then such interest should not in all fairness be touched by any Board.

(11) Clause 20 re. grant of certificate in respect of certain debts is highly dangerous in so far as it says that "no decree for the recovery of such debt shall be executed until all amounts payable, in respect of other debts of the debtor, under an award, has been paid, or such award has ceased to subsist under sub-section (4) of section 26, or, if there is no award, until the expiry of such period not exceeding ten years as may be specified in the certificate." This portion is peculiar to the Bengal Bill which finds no room in the C. P. and the Punjab Acts. Section 15 of the C. P. Act and Section 20 of the Punjab Act refer to the grant of certificate by Board in respect of certain debts but in Bengal Bill boldly declares that no decree for the recovery of the certified debt shall be executed, even if there is no award, until the expiry of such period not exceeding ten years. It is a revolutionary provision asking creditors to wait 10 years for the civil court decree even where there is no award by any Board whatsoever. My Committee may approve of waiting for the period of "six months" at most. This clause bears the marks of communistic creed as it contemplates certificate of debts against the wishes of creditors and postponement of execution of civil court decrees till the awarded debts are cleared off or in absence of any award till the expiry of ten years. My Committee are at a loss to find how the Government of Bengal could initiate such a measure wherein the decree of the civil court which is their own creation is to remain in abeyance for 10 years for no reasons whatsoever, except perhaps the wish of debtors. If this privilege is extended to industrialist debtors, it will asphyxiate all private incentives for industrial enterprise. Such a provision may help agrarian communism without any benefit to agriculture. Here is a provision where the impossible task of rescuing the agricultural debtors without stopping agricultural deterioration is attempted.

(12) Clause 21 re. adjustment of an insolvent debtor's debts it is contemplated that the debtor being declared insolvent, the movable and immovable property of the



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debtor except the land as is sufficient for his maintenance shall be sold forthwith. The insolvency of the debtor is brought out by the fact that his holding is uneconomic and cannot maintain him and that the deterioration of agricultural holdings in Bengal is proceeding quickly and smoothly. If that be the condition governing agricultural Bengal, how is it possible to find out lands which will be sufficient for maintenance of the debtor? In our country the agricultural unit is not the individual but the family and so long as the family unit continues it will not be possible in majority of the cases to spot out lands and exclude them which may be sufficient for the maintenance of the debtor's family. In the circumstances my Committee do not know what interpretation can possibly be given to sub-section (a) of sub-clause 1 of clause 21. Sub-section B of sub-clause 1 of Clause 21 contemplates reduction of debts and my Committee hold that in all such cases provisions of ordinary insolvency law should better be followed.

In provision 1 to sub-clause 2 of clause 21, the period within which any property is acquired by or devolves on the insolvent should be 10 years instead of 5.

(13) In clause 22, sub-clause 1 only the actual land covered by the dwelling house should be exempt from sale. The clause should therefore be more specific. Even then it is difficult to understand how arrears of rent in respect of the dwelling house will be realised. Practically, tenants will be enjoying the dwelling house free of rent.

In determining what moveables should be exempt from sale as contemplated in sub-clause 4 of clause 22, my Committee are of opinion that a list of ordinary moveables which should be exempt from sale be incorporated in the Act and that the existing sub-clause be deleted.

(14) The second para of sub-clause 25 should in the opinion of my Committee be deleted.

(15) In clause 30, sub-clause 2, towards the end of the para, the words beginning with "and six months" and ending with "was given" should be deleted.

(16) In clause 31 the Board, in the opinion of my Committee, shall not be competent to take up debts where title questions are involved. The Board will not be an expert body and as such intricate title questions affecting any debt should be placed beyond the competence of the Board.

(17) In clause 34 re appeals, an appellate officer should not be below the rank of a Munsif and this should not be left to the rule-making power of the Local Government.

The proviso to sub-clause 1 of clause 34 should accordingly be deleted.

(18) In clause 40, a new section should be inserted to the effect that the Board shall not be deemed to be a civil or criminal or a revenue court.

(19) In clause 45 sub-clause 1 sub-section (a) the words "and whether it has been recorded or not" should be deleted. It will be dangerous if unrecorded statements are imputed to any one and he is penalised accordingly.

The sub-clause 2 of clause 45 should be deleted and it should be in the opinion of the Committee entrusted to ordinary criminal courts and ordinary penal laws should be followed.

My Committee on examination of the provisions of the Bill find that they cannot give them unqualified support to it though they agree that the Bill has been sponsored with the best of intentions. My Committee are eager to see that relief to agricultural debtors should be adequate and effective and they are not convinced that the Bill under review will provide for the desired relief to debtors. My Committee however feel that the Bill may be made less harmful and less irritating if the modifications suggested by my Committee are accepted by Government. It is very near to the heart of my Committee that effective steps should be taken to stop the pace of agricultural deterioration in Bengal as they know perfectly well that the prosperity of the province is bound up with that of agriculturists. But it is difficult to contend that the Bill as it stands, will contribute to the solution of the problems facing the agriculturists of Bengal. My Committee hope that Government will be able to adopt the amendments suggested with a view to make the Bill acceptable and useful.

## Bahraich Landlord's Association

With reference to the proposed amendment to the Oudh Rent Act, empowering the landlords and tonants in Oudh to apply for commutation of grain rents to cash on terms similar to those in Agra, Raja Birendra Bikram Singh, M. L. C., of Payagpur, President, Bahraich Landlords' Association, has addressed the following letter to the President of the British Indian Association (Oudh), to be forwarded to the local Government :

"The proposed amendments to the Oudh Rent Act of 1886 are wholly unnecessary because the objects and reasons on which these amendments have been based are inadequate and practically non-existent. In the district of Bahraich there is practically no demand for such a change. The grain rented areas have been free from any agitation even during the days of no-rent campaign and applications for division of produce have been few and far between even in normal times.

"The division of produce is carried on in accordance with the long-established customary laws, which are respected both by tenants and zamindars. This is little disagreement if at all on this point. In case of any disagreement provisions in the present Act are quite adequate, and there seems to be no necessity of a fresh legislation.

"During the days of agricultural depression tenants will not agree to conversion of their rent from grain into cash as they find it more convenient to pay in kind rather than to deprive themselves of almost the whole of their produce which they have to sell to meet the necessary amount of cash rent. The zamindars, too, are saved the unpleasant task of bringing suits for arrears of rent. In fact in our district there are in several estates frequent applications from tenants praying for conversion of rent from cash to kind.

"In my opinion the option given by the present Act to commute grain rents into cash and *vice versa* fully meets the present needs of both the parties and needs no change whatsoever.

"The Sarda Canal does not touch our district and so no comment is offered. The conditions in Oudh are not the same as those in the Agra Province, hence the proposed Bill will be most unpopular in Oudh where its provisions may be a source of constant irritation the very thing the Bill alleges to remove."

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## OUDH TALUQDARS AND AGRA ZAMINDARS

To

The Editor,  
Landholders' Journal.

Sir,

A most childish controversy seems to have arisen amongst the Taluqdars of Oudh and the Zamindars of Agra Province over the reservation of seats for their order in the Provincial Legislature. The Taluqdars of Oudh want their "pound of flesh" and the Zamindars of Agra refuse to give it. The former claim 4 seats in the name of tradition and the meritorious services that they think they have rendered to the Government. The latter clamour for equality on their numerical strength and the revenue that they pay into the Government exchequer.

Taking everything into consideration the fight over into redistribution of seats is most unhappy. It indicates a gloomy future for the landowning community as a whole whether they be the Taluqdars of Oudh or the landed proprietors of Agra. It is common knowledge that there is a growing feeling of dislike in the country against the vested interests. The peculiar conditions of the country together with a rising spirit of equality all over the world have influenced the ideas of the educated members of the middle classes that do not approve of the perpetuation of the landowning community with its time-honoured privileges. The greatest and probably the strongest political organisation of the country—the Congress—is by no means a steady supporter of the vested interests. One should not be surprised if sooner or later the Congress goes into open opposition against the landowning community; and, of course, the influence of the Congress would count for something in the future political life of the country. Then there is a section of people who frankly preach communism and condemn the propertied class as a body of parasites and blood-suckers who exploit the masses on archaic principles and practices.

The landholders in India have a very difficult future. With the exception of their own order they have no genuine friends. In a period of transition the privileged class stands to lose at every step. It has often been remarked in the columns of the papers that champion their cause that the political future of the landowning community lies in its own solidarity. Artificial props, as a rule, do not go very far. It is only the inward strength of an organisation that enables it to fight its opponents.

The recent controversy amongst the landed magnates of Oudh and Agra tends to drive the wedge of difference still deeper. When the two organisations stand to fortify the interests of their community as a whole, the huge fuss created over the question of the redistribution of their seats in their own order is, to say the least, unstatesmanlike. It seems barren of all sense. It appears that the landowning community has yet to learn the most important lesson of public-spiritedness. It cannot retain its present position of vantage by an addition or subtraction of a seat or two. It must, like the National Congress, try to capture the maximum number of seats through general constituencies by winning the confidence of the electorate.

Yours etc.

L. N. SARIN.

## For All Seasons

Each year seasons come in their turn in unbroken regularity. As night follows the day, spring follows winter and thus all the six seasons of India. Man's whole manner of existence undergoes periodic adjustments with the progress of seasons from year to year.

The Indian almanac sets forth a complete set of regulations as regards what to eat and what to drink at each particular season. There are still many people in India who implicitly obey those injunctions in order to be able to possess healthy bodies and sound minds.

There was a time when tea as a beverage was not so widely appreciated by the people of the country as it is today. Those who have learnt to appreciate its value, used to consider it appropriate only for the cold weather, when it felt nice and warm after a cup of hot tea. But in modern times tea drinking is no longer limited to any particular season or hour of the day. In every Indian household that takes tea regularly the tea pot is on duty practically at all hours, from morning till night. Nowadays any time is tea time.

In the hot weather, as a matter of fact, tea is the only drink that can keep one cool. When the heat is intense, cold drink, although people are apt to crave for them, do not actually help us to keep cool. But if you take two or three cups of well-made, good Indian tea at midday in the very height of summer, you perspire profusely and then feel really cool for the next few hours. There is no substitute for the tea as an all-the-year-round and every-hour-of-the-day beverage and there can be none. It is the ideal drink for all seasons.

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## Notes \* News \* Comments

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### The Crisis in the Jute Mill Industry

In the last week of August a severe slump set in the jute, hessian and gunny markets as a result of one mill having written to the Indian Jute Mills Association threatening to break away if a few mills at present outside the Agreement for restricted hours and sealed up looms were not brought within the Agreement. On top of this came the Government of India's refusal to give legislative effects to the terms of the arrangement regarding working, extension etc. at present existing between members of the Association and outside mills and to make the arrangement applicable to all mills in Bengal.

These have precipitated a crisis in the industry, as sudden as it is disastrous. The ryots are completely demoralised, investors in jute shares are faced with ruin, while panic prevails in the goods markets to the dismay of speculative holders and speculators. All the benefits, which were expected to accrue to the cultivators as a result of the restriction scheme, have vanished for ever, and the ryots, who are the poorer will be the worst sufferers from this drama. The holders of jute shares are in a scarcely better plight. Jute shares have undergone an all-round depreciation from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent. which has not yet lifted. And all this is the outcome of the threatened withdrawal of one or two mills from the arrangement as referred to above, if the concerns still outside the agreement, cannot be brought within its orbit, or the working hours in the industry restricted by legislation. It is said that these 'rebel' mills have the fullest support and sympathy of several other concerns.

That the mills which are working under restricted hours etc. should have grievances against the establishment of new mills or the expansion of existing ones, which are outside the Agreement, is not unnatural, but it seems that that is no sufficient explanation of the present catastrophe. If the Agreement breaks down it is the new mills, with their limited resources, which are first to go under, and yet it is these which are now most vociferous. This naturally raises the suspicion that all these manœuvres are nothing but a dodge. And the experience of the past raises the suspicion that it is an old game. It is widely hinted that some mills were oversold or fully sold against limited stocks of raw material and also restricted productive capacity. They are now naturally anxious to cover at a profit and that is why they want to create a panic in the goods market so as to be able to buy back their sales. If this is the game, the objective

has been achieved, and it is quite possible that after some more melodrama things will take their normal course.

But things have now gone too far to let either the public or the Government to shut their eyes to them. Jute is the economic basis of Bengal and the economic prosperity of the province rests on it. But in spite of its being a monopoly of the province and of its being in world-wide demand as a wrapper of goods, the position of cultivators is pitiful. Between the cupidity of the mills and the unscrupulousness of the 'fut-kawallahs' the poor ryot is bled white. The 'futka' is organised, the mills are organised, but the ryots are not, and they have to bear the brunt of the machinations of either. The public at large may have a misconception of the alleged huge profits of the jute mills, but there is no gainsaying the fact that it is still making profit, a decent profit too, in spite of the continuation of the world-wide depression and of a tremendous fall in the quantum of international trade following the growth of aggressive economic nationalism all over the world. The Indian Jute Mill Industry has not the reputation of being economic in its work. Those who are familiar with the inner working of the mills unhesitatingly say that there is still enough scope for improvement in this direction. This is borne out by the fact that in some newly created mills by Indians, the cost of production per ton of manufactured goods is much less than in the case of many old established mills managed by Europeans. Price level of manufactured goods has certainly fallen, but that still leaves a decent manufacturing profit. If the price of jute goods is kept at a reasonable level, there is nothing to compete with it for sacking and bagging purposes. The jute millowners are all trying to raise the price of manufactured goods and that by forced restriction of the creation of new mills and of the working hours of the old. We are however convinced that under normal circumstances, the days of fabulous profits are over and to attempt that by a policy of forced restriction will be to court disaster. There is no justification in preventing the erection of new mills simply to safeguard the super-profits of the existing millowners. And then it is impossible to prevent foreign countries to establish jute mills, if they find that by restriction the Indian industry is exploiting the consumers. The Indian industry will control only so long as it sells comparatively cheap.

The difficulties of Jute Mill Industry are of its own making. The Government in its reply to the demand for legislative restriction has stressed this point. It has pointed out that jute mill production has hopelessly outstripped not only present consumption but any possible consumption. Even in 1912-14, the mills working for about half the possible weekly hours were "capable of meeting a substantially higher demand than India had known before or has known since." Since then, there has been an increase of 60 per cent in the number of jute mills, of about 90 per cent in the number of looms, and of about 60 per cent in the number of spindles. The industry has been kept going not by restricting the number of enterprises but by restricting production in such a fashion as to keep as

many mills working as possible and to secure for them a price dependant for its maintenance on that restriction. "The consumers of the goods are, in fact, being asked to provide profits on an amount of capital far in excess of the needs of industry and at the same time to defray the extra charges involved in the maintenance of many unnecessary mills." The Government agree that by securing an artificially high price many mills are kept working that would otherwise have to close down, but high prices have resulted in other countries getting an increased share of the world demand for jute manufactures. If the industry were to rationalize itself by concentrating production in a limited number of mills securing adequate use of their machinery and were content with reasonable profits on that amount of capital which is necessary to meet the demand, the results would be satisfactory to all concerned. The consequent reduction in price should enable the industry to recapture a larger share of the foreign market for manufactured goods.

The attitude of the Government is clear and commendable. They have refused to intervene unless the industry puts its own house in order through rationalisation. The Government derive a substantial portion of their revenue from the jute mills' profits. If these dwindle or vanish, Government's loss will be heavy, but in spite of that risk, they have taken up a laudable attitude. The internecine war in the industry, if unchecked will ruin many investors, but still it is desirable that the problem should be thrashed out once for all, so that the investors may know where they stand and not remain in suspension at the mercy of unscrupulous managing agents.

### **Madras Agriculturists Loan Bill**

The Madras Government have earned the gratitude of the people under their charge by their sincere efforts to fight the monster of agricultural indebtedness of the Province. The Agriculturists Loans Bill is a recent addition to the various measures they have undertaken—the Land Mortgage Bank Amendment Bill, and the Debtors' Protection Bill—to grant relief to the debtors on a large scale.

With the passing of Agriculturists Loan Bill they have ear-marked a sum of about 5 or 6 lakhs in order to give effect to the provisions of the bill. Although the amount is quite inadequate to give any appreciable relief, yet it is a tangible recognition of the need for an effective drive against rural indebtedness. The intention of the Government is to utilize this sum to liquidate debt in the manner which conciliation committees may suggest in particular cases.

The problem of debt relief is connected with the entire problem of rural credit. No satisfactory resolution is possible which does not reckon with this fact. The question is far too complicated to be capable of solution by makeshifts and patch-work. The respective spheres of the different categories of credit agencies should be clearly defined so that conflict of

jurisdiction and overlapping of effort might be avoided. Ryots require different kinds of accommodation, short-term accommodation and long-term accommodation, loans for productive purposes and loans for unproductive, loans on personal security and effects and loans on real property, loans on produce and loans on chattel. In certain cases, what they require is really not loans, but grants in relief of distress. The Government evidently contemplate that there should be different agencies to deal with these different types of credit. There are the co-operative societies which are supposed to look primarily to the borrowers and their sureties for the repayment of their dues ; the security which they prize most is the soundness of the person, his businesslike methods, honesty, thrift and other qualities which, in the society's view, constitute the most reliable guarantees that their loans will be repaid. The credit-worthiness of the person is their principal criterion. The mortgage banks, on the other hand, depend on the value of the land mortgaged for their security ; and so on.

What is required is a comprehensive programme of debt relief which should take all these points into consideration and regulate the grant of credit and relief to the best advantage of the ryots and rate-payers.

### **Crimes against and immoral Traffic in Women**

The monstrous social evil of immoral traffic in women was severely condemned by His Excellency Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal, when he opened the Army's Rescue Home for Women and Girls at Behala recently. His Excellency said :

It is truly shocking that an act bearing the title of Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act should find entry in the statute book of civilized people ; the very words revolt every decent instinct but as long as the vice can be turned into a commercial asset, it would be a greater disgrace to the community if its representatives acquiesced in such a state of affairs and did not bestir themselves to invoke pains and penalties upon those members of the community who, by engaging in this despicable traffic, sink below the level of savages. It is, I believe, almost universally true that simple primitive peoples who are often wrongly described and thought of as degraded have strict moral codes. I can well imagine that any such people if told of the laws to suppress immoral traffic in women and children would say that they could only be necessary in debased savage tribes.

Sometime ago the Amrita Bazar Patrik commented on abduction of women with immoral intent as follows :

Abduction of women with immoral intent is one of the most serious offences against society. It is not only a menace to the peace and tranquility of domestic life but it threatens the very foundation of social order. It is for this reason that not only has there been a feeling of horror but a sort of panic in this province for sometime past when cases of abduction of women began to be reported from all parts of Bengal. Courts of law have realised the gravity of the situation and now it is not often that when

persons are found guilty of offences against women they are sentenced not only to long terms of imprisonment but sometimes to the maximum sentence provided under the law. Demands for the providing of more deterrent punishment for these classes of crimes have been made both in the press and from the platform and the statistics of these crimes which are supplied by the Government from time to time undoubtedly go to show that the punishment now provided for these offences are not sufficiently deterrent. For though courts of law no longer treat such crimes lightly there has hardly been any substantial reduction in the number of reported cases of offences against women.

The above are crimes to which no civilized people or government can shut their eyes or shut them for any considerable length of time. Yet in India, particularly in Bengal, these crimes have an easy sailing. No determined effort has so far been attempted to eradicate these evils which are eating into the vitals of our society. The only conclusions which one can draw from the unabated prevalence of these crimes are that either we have no very great scruples about them or the task of suppressing them is beyond our control. Which is true ?

### **University Reviews the Educational Proposals of Bengal Government**

"It will be fatal to take any step which may check the growth of educational progress. Bengal wants more education. She also wants better education. Neither aspect should be sacrificed for the sake of the other".

This statement, which crystallizes public opinion in Bengal on the point, is contained in the report of the Committee of the Calcutta University appointed to consider the recent Government resolution on the recognition of primary and secondary education in Bengal. While recognising the urgent necessity of reorganising the educational system in the country, the committee emphasize that any scheme of reorganisation, if it is to be of real value, must be such as will be acceptable to public opinion generally. "If young Bengalees are encouraged to regard the middle school stage as the normal end of their school life, it will definitely retard the future intellectual and political progress of the province. This is the weakest part of the Government scheme", state the Committee.

"Any scheme of reform", it continues, "if it is to be of lasting benefit, must provide for increasing opportunities of educational expansion. Further, there must be a sufficient guarantee that the State will be prepared to spend on education more money than has hitherto been found possible, for without such assistance from public funds it will be impossible to carry any far-reaching reforms in effect. Unfortunately the resolution does not deal with the point. In this province education has owed more to private generosity and enterprise than to anything else. This aspect of the life of Bengali people must not be overlooked in considering plans of future reorganisation."

Referring to primary education the report states, "The University considers 16,000 primary schools for the whole of Bengal to be utterly inadequate. One primary school cannot serve an area of 4 to 5 sq. miles, little children cannot be expected to walk so far . . . The University strongly objects to the proposal of describing primary schools attended by a majority of Moslem pupils as 'maktab'. All schools should be simply primary schools. 'Maktab' either have some special characteristics of their own or they have not. If they have, non-Moslems do not want their children to be educated under their influence ; if they have not, there is no justification for calling them 'Maktab' at all."

Alluding to high schools the report continues, "The University cannot approve of the proposal that the high schools should be deliberately restricted. 'Village-mindedness' is good so far as it goes. There has, of late, been a long swing of the pendulum in favour of towns and villages have been lamentably neglected. Efforts should by all means be made to improve the condition of the villages and to make them more attractive. But it does not follow from this, that a policy should be initiated which is likely to go to the other extreme. If young people have to stay in villages, it must be made worth their while to do so. The University fails to understand what careers of large usefulness will be open to the youths equipped with primary or middle-school education."

The Vice-chancellor and his colleagues of the Select Committee are entitled to the thanks of the whole country for pointing in this clear way the reactionary nature of the Government's proposals. The Government resolution will not help education, it will simply put back the clock of progress. It is a sin against humanity and against civilisation.

### **Value of India's Goodwill to England's Trade.**

Speaking at a banquet given in honour of the delegates of the Empire Parliamentary Conference, by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mr. K. L. Gauba M.L.A. (India) said :

"Some people, happily few in number, seem to think that by legislation and legislative safeguards you can make India buy your goods. These persons are neither friends of India nor of Manchester. In trade, price and quality are secondary to good will, and if Manchester wants back her trade, she must seek the goodwill of India. Knowing my people, I can say that your gestures of genuine goodwill will not be rejected. I expect that if Manchester takes the right course towards India, the people of India, will return the compliment with more orders than Manchester can fulfil."

### **India and the League**

Addressing the League Assembly on the 13th of September last, H. H. the Aga Khan declared that India has not yet obtained a square deal from the League. India, he said, was troubled by the League's lack of Universality and the tiny representation of Indians. She was troubled

by the great preponderance of League devotees to European interests", and troubled "by the magnitude of her contribution which is larger than that of any non-permanent member of the Council—"disturbingly large", he said—which contrasted with the poverty of so many of her millions.

We are all thankful to H. H. Aga Khan for exposing the sham, and it is a costly sham, of India's membership of the League of Nations. India's contribution to the League expenditure is considerable, but her share of the personnel of the League Secretariat is negligible. The League, moreover, never cares for India's problems and India's woes, and her inclusion in the League has not added a particle to her international status. The sooner the situation is mended, the better.

### **H E. the Commander-in-Chief on Pace of Indianization**

Opposing a resolution in the Council of State, on the 24th of Sept. last, to the effect that the number of candidates in the Military Academy at Dehra Dun be raised from 60 to 120, Sir Philip Chetwode, the Commander-in-Chief of India declared that he did not feel at all sure that the rate of Indianization could be increased very much as things were going now.

In support of his statement, he said that the right class of men required for increased rate of Indianization were not coming forward. "We have no doubt" said His Excellency the Commander-in-chief "that the material in the way of non-commissioned officers and sepoys is as good as anywhere in the world, but I don't feel the same confidence about the young men coming forward for Commissions." As to why the Commander-in-chief should feel lack of confidence in those young men in particular who come for commission and not in those who come to join as privates or non-commissioned officers, His Excellency observed that the army authorities were not getting the class of young men to come forward for Commissions they got in Europe or Japan, and as this was still quite vague, His Excellency went on to make it more definite by saying that the army authorities were not getting the young men who were the natural leaders of the country, such as the sons of Princes, Sardars and big zemindars. If they did not get the right class, said His Excellency, Indianization would not be the success they had hoped.

### **Fasting as a means of socio-political bullying**

India is a land of strange antics and things which would have raised laughter of saner and more sensible peoples, excite only admiration here. The latest and the most perverse of these antics, which is now in high fashion, is the coercion of socio-political opponents through the threat of fasting into death. This sort of tactics is pursued by wives to coerce their husbands, but it is the special glory of some Hindu socio-political leaders to have imported it into public life and to use it as a lever against their opponents. It is a kind of moral bullying against which too much cannot be said. It banishes public opinion and means the triumph of the obstinacy

of one because of the kindness of the rest. This is a kind of moral perversion which could not have been tolerated in any country other than India. It is moral bullying of the worst type and to submit to it is cowardice of the worst type. We submit to it in haste only to repent in leisure. Action divorced from reason leads always to misery as the Poona Pact will tell. Yet strange to say, men are still abundant among the so-called leaders of Bengal who would advise us to submit to such bullying to which we are now subjected. We do not know what credentials Pandit Ram Chandra Sarma possesses for dictating to a whole nation as the "Power Divine", and order to give up in an instant the custom of centuries, but we have no hesitation in saying that he is doing it in a way which is against all that is fundamental in human reason and in human sense of fairplay. He might be a "noble soul" as Tagore has declared in his appeal on his behalf and animal sacrifice might be worst of social evils, but to use the means that he is using is a violation of the most fundamental rights of human liberty and freedom of action. Nothing that the British Government has ever done or can ever do in restricting the liberties of the Indian people, can ever equal it in viciousness. If a man who believes in animal sacrifice were to start a fast in return, we would be able to realise something of its viciousness as a means of social or political reform.

However good might be the intentions of these martyrs and however noble their ideals it is high time to stop it. "If it should now be Bengal's turn to compel Pandit Ramchandra to embrace death by persisting in the utterly callous attitude towards this movement," then, says Tagore, "the entire nation shall repent heavily." We do not know whether Bengal shall repent heavily or not but we know that if she refuses to submit to this worst and most cowardly form of moral bullyings, she will do a service to India, which would be inferior to none she has done to her in the past or will do to her in the future. She will once again help to enthroned that human reason and human commonsense which she had done so much to awaken in this country.

### Oudh and Agra Zemindars

We regret to note that two of the most important and influential Zemindar Associations of India are now engaged in an unseemly wrangle over the question of allocation of seats to them in the coming legislatures.

We cannot persuad ourselves to enter into the merits of the controversy that is being wage with bitterness on both sides as we are convinced that there should be absolutely no ground for difference at all. Times are undoubtedly not propitious for such attitude of acrimony and aggrandisement which can only lead to further cleavage and dissensions instead of solidarity the importance of which we had all along been stressing in these columns in the interests of the zemindari order. We believe that ere long good sense woul prevail reconciling the points at issue.













